Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Obama Transition Team Bans LGBT Discrimination

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Obama-Biden transition team is telling prospective employees in the new administration it will not discriminate against LGBT workers.

"The Obama-Biden Transition Project does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or any other basis of discrimination prohibited by law," the Transition team says on its official Web site.

Although the commitment pertains only to transition team workers, LGBT civil rights activists say they believe Obama will issue an Executive Order shortly after being sworn in to extend that throughout the administration. "The inclusion of gender identity is a bold departure from the past – and it sends a clear message," said Christopher E. Anders, ACLU Senior Legislative Counsel. "By including sexual orientation and gender identity in its non-discrimination policy, the Obama-Biden transition team makes clear that it will focus on the relevant qualities that actually predict an applicant's success on the job – professional experience, character, skills and education."

Although President Bill Clinton signed Executive Order 11478, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, there are no explicit federal protections from gender identity bias in government hiring. During the Bush administration, U.S. Special Counsel Scott Bloch refused to protect LGBT workers. The Office of the Special Counsel is supposed to protect whistleblowers and investigate complaints of discrimination by federal workers. Bloch's stonewalling of complaints of discrimination by LGBT federal workers dates to February 2004, when he ordered references to sexual orientation removed from the Office of the Special Counsel website.

A month after the references disappeared from the OSC website, Bloch said Gay workers were no longer protected. After intense pressure from Federal Globe - the LGBT organization for federal civil servants - and from Democrats on the Hill, the White House said it would honor the Executive Order signed by Clinton that assured LGBT workers of civil rights protections. But with Bloch's approval, several union contracts negotiated with various branches of the government removed the list of categories that are protected, replacing them with the more nebulous phrase "any class protected by law." Bloch said in May 2005 before the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs subcommittee that his interpretation of the Clinton executive order cannot be used to protect Gay workers, because it does not specifically name LGBT workers.

"President-elect Obama and Vice President-elect Biden, by explicitly rejecting the bigotry and intolerance of the past, are committing that Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender professionals can serve in government without fear of discrimination," said Anders. "This is a critical next step in securing the basic rights of LGBT community."

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Four Anti-G/L Measures Approved By Voters

In Los Angeles, Anti-Proposition 8 vent their feelings about the outcome

In San Diego, over ten thousand marched from Hillcrest to North Park in protest.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - In the glow of the election of Illinois Senator Barack Obama as the country's 44th President, the first African-American in the country's history to hold the office, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) rights groups were dealt four setbacks when ballot measures were approved by voters stripping away what few rights they had.

In Arizona, the second time around proved the charm, as Arizona voters approved a constitutional amendment that bans same-sex marriage. Proposition 102, the Yes for Marriage campaign, proposed a 20-word amendment to the state Constitution to define marriage as between one man and one woman. It's an attempt to do what backers couldn't do in 2006: ensure that Arizona's existing law banning same sex marriages will not be overturned by a judge.

Florida voters approved a constitutional ban on Gay marriage Tuesday, handing a victory to social conservatives who pumped millions into the ballot drive aimed at ensuring the courts cannot legalize same-sex unions, civil unions or domestic partnerships in the Sunshine State. After a fierce battle waged on TV airwaves, Amendment 2 was poised to comfortably clear the 60 percent threshold to become law, according to unofficial election results.

A measure to once again ban Gay marriage in California was passed by voters in Tuesday's election, throwing into doubt the unions of an estimated 18,000 same-sex couples who wed during the last 4 1/2 months.

As Proposition 8, the most divisive and emotionally fraught issue on the state ballot this year, took a lead in early returns, supporters gathered at a hotel ballroom in Sacramento and cheered.

"We caused Californians to rethink this issue," Proposition 8 strategist Jeff Flint said. Early in the campaign, he noted, polls showed the measure trailing by 17 points. "I think the voters were thinking, well, if it makes them happy, why shouldn't we let Gay couples get married. And I think we made them realize that there are broader implications to society and particularly the children when you make that fundamental change that's at the core of how society is organized, which is marriage," he said.

In Arkansas, which already has

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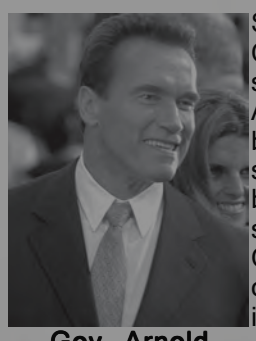
Schwarzenegger Hopes California Supreme Court Overturns Proposition 8



Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger

SACRAMENTO, California (Observer Update) - As Gays and Lesbians demonstrated against the banning of same-sex marriage in California for another day, increasing in numbers and volume, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he hoped the California Supreme Court would overturn the measure.

Speaking on CNN Sunday (November 9), the governor called passage of the constitutional amendment "unfortunate ... but it's not the end."

"I think that we will again maybe undo that, if the court is willing to do that, and then move forward from there and again lead in that area," Schwarzenegger said.

The governor spoke out against the amendment during the campaign. In April, at the national convention of the Log Cabin Republicans, the nation's largest Gay Republican group, in San Diego, he said for the first time he opposed the measure, but predicted it would not get voter approval.

The measure succeeded, however, with a slim margin. LGBT rights groups immediately petitioned the California Supreme Court to overturn it on the grounds the measure is invalid, because the initiative process was improperly used in an attempt to undo the constitution's core commitment to equality for everyone, by eliminating a fundamental right from just one group - Lesbian and Gay Californians.

The petition also says that Proposition 8 improperly attempts to prevent the courts from exercising their essential constitutional role of protecting the equal protection rights of minorities.

Appearing on CNN, Schwarzenegger urged Gays not to give up in the fight for marriage equality. "They should never give up. They should be on it and on it until they get it done," he said.

That is a marked change from

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UPDATE

A Call To Action For November 14

TUCSON (Observer Update) - We will no longer hide who we are for the sake of political expediency. We will not take a back seat to poll-tested messaging. We will rescue the definition of "family," which has been hijacked by the the forces of bigotry and homophobia. We will use the passage of prop 102 to motivate us to be visible forces for change in our communities.

Wingspan is sponsoring a call to action and community celebration on the evening of Friday, November 14, 5:00 p.m. - Assemble at El Presidio Park, 5:30 p.m - March to La Placita steps off, 6:30 p.m. - Official Presentation for Launch of FAMILIES YOU KNOW at La Placita Village (map). Parking available across from El Presidio Park and across from La Placita Village. Free after 5:00 p.m.

Cheer on the families in the first videos to be premiered that night! Bring your family to have your FAMILIES YOU KNOW video produced! Now is the time for our community and allies to come together in mutual support, honoring the anger and disappointment we feel about the passage of Proposition 102, and to heal. Even more importantly, we need to channel our feelings, strengths and energy into a positive force for social change.

Key to this effort is Wingspan's FAMILIES YOU KNOW campaign, a video, photography and storytelling project that empowers you to change hearts and minds through sharing your family stories. We will officially launch FAMILIES YOU KNOW at Friday's event. Why? Because the narrow definition of "family" espoused by Prop 102 supporters hurts everyone. We know that families come in many forms, but what defines them is an unbreakable bond of trust, respect, and concern for each other's well being.

The FAMILIES YOU KNOW campaign will feature your families, in which one or more members is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, or a straight ally, families where children, siblings, parents, grandparents, and friends are loved, respected, cared for, and nurtured. Wingspan is excited to sponsor this dynamic, community-driven campaign. You and your family are not just talking about "values," you're living them - balancing work and soccer practice, celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, sharing joys and sorrows. With your help, we will raise awareness, confront prejudice, and begin a conversation in the community where all families are respected, valued, and not exploited for short-term political gain.

Wingspan's Front Porch welcomes Tucson musician Leila Lopez. You've seen her at Plush. You've seen her at Delectables. You've seen her at the 4th Avenue Fair and the Folk Music Festival and you will see her at La Placita after the rally.

For more information, call (520) 624-1779 or online at wingspan.org.

SAAF's Festival For Life November 23

TUCSON (Observer Update) - "As human beings, we should all care for one another. Someway, somehow, we should all do something that falls within our capacity to reach out and give a small token of love, compassion, and understanding to those who need it." - Karen Riggs, Festival for Life Artist. Long Realty Cares Foundation (Title Sponsor) and The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), proudly announce that the 20th Annual Jerôme Beillard Festival for Life will take place on Sunday, November 23, 2008 from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m., at The University of Arizona® Student Union Grand Ballroom, 1303 E. University Drive in Tucson.

Festival for Life is an annual live and silent auction featuring fine artwork, unique experiences, exciting travel opportunities, striking jewelry, and one-of-a-kind gifts. The event will also include hors d'oeuvres, a chocolate fountain, no-host bar, and entertainment from the Sons of Orpheus and Namoli Brennet. The 2008 Featured Gallery, Old Pueblo Frameworks and Gallery will be presenting several local and national recognized artists such as Frank B. Walsh, Domingo Cheleuitte, and Jay W. Smith, all in support of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation. This year, many of the auction items can be previewed on the Festival website, www.festivalforlife.org. Featured items at this year's event include: a Week Stay in a Overwater or Beachfront Bungalow in Cooks Bay, Tahiti, a Spa Renewal Day for 2 at Canyon Ranch, a Private Party for 14 at Pastiche, Tickets to HAIR at the Arizona Theatre Company, and an 18K Rose Gold Diamond "Hope" Pendant with .07tw Diamonds SI-G/H Quality by Italian Designer Roberto Coin. Festival for Life is supported by Title Sponsor Long Realty Cares Foundation, Title Media Sponsors Cox Communications, Cox Media, 97.5 BOB FM, and 1400 KTUC. Festival for Life also is supported by El Rio Health Center and Dex Media.

Tickets are $60 in advance and $75 at the door. Please call Jess at (520) 628-7223 for tickets or visit the Festival for Life website at festivalforlife.org for more information. Festival for Life raises funds for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation to support programs and services for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation's mission is to create and sustain a healthier community through a compassionate, comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS.

Upcoming Events At Antigone Books

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Please join us for an event at Antigone Books, 411 N. Fourth Avenue, on Wednesday, November 19, 7:00 p.m., for Flavors Without Borders / Sabores Sin Fronteras and join us for a gala reading about local food, water, and ranching by four renowned writers!

Gary Nabhan, Tucson's well-known nature writer, ethnobotanist and social scientist will discuss his newest book, Where Our Food Comes From (Island Press, $24.95). Betty Fussell, celebrated food writer for the New York Times & The New Yorker and author of eleven books on food, will discuss her newest: Raising Steaks: The Life and Times of American Beef (Harcourt, $26.00). Juan Arellano, Spanish folklorist and cultural activist, and Enrique Lamadrid, writer and agronomist, will discuss their beautiful children's book, Juan the Bear and the Water of Life/La Acequia de Juan del Oso (U. New Mexico, $17.95). The reading will be followed by a question and answer period. Refreshments will be served.

Join us for an event on Friday, November 21, 7:00 p.m., when Lori Girshick will discuss her book, Transgender Voices: Beyond Women and Men (Univ. Press of New England, $26.00). Lori Girshick's helpful, provocative book is a real contribution to the science and sociology of Transgender people. Her many luminous interviews allow Trans people to speak for themselves; her uncanny and cutting-edge criticism provides both the theory and the compassion in order to further illuminate these voices. Transgender Voices speaks with wisdom, complexity, and insight on a topic key to our understanding of the spectrum of gender identity. This event is co-sponsored by Wingspan, the U. of A. Office of LGBTQ Affairs and the U. of A. Center for Student Involvement and Leadership.

A Colorful Life: Alta Fly, Nov. 16

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Come and hear about the fascinating true life story of Alta Fly: born in a small Oklahoma town in the middle of the depression; lived in the San Francisco Bay area for over 50 years; painter, ceramic artist, photographer, school psychologist, political activist, out Lesbian.

She says "Tucson seemed like a good place from which to observe the downfall of western civilization. Now old and tired and crippled, but still full of the life force and spirit"

Be there on Sunday, Nov 16 at Himmel Park Library, 1035 N Treat Ave, and help celebrate Alta's life. For more information, contact Penelope Starr, (520) 624-1779, ext. 122.

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Obama Consulted Three Times With Bishop Gene Robinson

LONDON, UK (Observer Update) - During his campaign for the White House, president-elect Barack Obama had three conversations with openly Gay Episcopal bishop Gene Robinson about what it's like to be a "breakthrough" figure. The discussions occurred in May and June 2007, The Times of London reports.

""The first words out of his mouth were: 'Well, you're certainly causing a lot of trouble,'" Robinson, who became the Anglican Communion's first out bishop in 2003, told The Times. "My response to him was: 'Well, that makes two of us.'" The head of the New Hampshire diocese was in London to be honored by the Gay rights group Stonewall. He told the paper that his chats with Obama were part of the candidate's overall outreach to faith leaders of all stripes. But because of Robinson's unique – and controversial – position, he had particular advice to offer the Illinois senator.

"At the end of the day," he told Obama, according to The Times, "you have to decide whether or not you are going to be paralyzed by threats and by violent possibilities or whether you just move on and do what you feel called to do despite the risks," reported advocate.com.

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Poet's Corner

Panic On Main Street

by Ron Rose - Tucson

There is a pall on Wall Street, how long will this thing last.
Recession is so frightening, have our days of glory passed?
House prices plunging swiftly, stock prices drop each day.
Our government seems so helpless, please save us - don't delay.
Some think our leaders failed us, they lied along the way,
Everything is "peachy", just let the bankers play.
Equity is negative on everything we own.
We owe so much, we're out of touch, can't even get a loan.
So let's all pull together for this is our great test.
We'll stay alive, we will survive. Our country is the Best!

Four Anti-G/L Measures Approved By Voters

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a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, now will limit adoptions and foster care of children to people who are legally married. The ballot measure passed by a wide margin - 57-43 percent.

The measure grew out of a state Supreme Court ruling last year that overturned a Child Welfare Agency Review Board policy that banned Gay people from serving as foster parents. In its unanimous ruling, the court said that "the driving force behind adoption of the regulations was not to promote the health, safety and welfare of foster children but rather based upon the board's views of morality and its bias against homosexuals." The Arkansas Family Council - the same group that spearheaded Arkansas' constitutional ban on same-sex marriage - collected enough signatures to place the adoption referendum before voters.

Schwarzenegger Hopes

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his earlier positions on Gay marriage. Legislation to legalize same-sex marriage passed the California legislature twice and each time Schwarzenegger vetoed the bills, saying that the courts, or the people through a plebiscite, should decide the issue.

The California Supreme Court ruled in May that it was unconstitutional to ban Gays and Lesbians from marrying. Opponents immediately began work on Prop 8.

Supporters of same-sex marriage have demonstrated at a number of churches across the state. Evangelical Christians, the Roman Catholic Church and the Mormon Church actively supported passage of Prop 8.

Carrying signs that read "You Cannot Vote Away Civil Rights," hundreds protested in front of the Saddleback Church, an Orange County mega-church.

In Oakland, demonstrators crowded onto a roadway in front of a Mormon temple, prompting the California Highway Patrol to close off an exit ramp, because they feared some demonstrators could be hit by traffic.

Thousands of others demonstrated against the amendment in front of the state Capitol in Sacramento.

On Saturday (November 8), 10,000 supporters of Gay marriage took to the streets in Los Angeles. Another 10,000 demonstrated in San Diego. About 2,000 people gathered in Long Beach Friday night (November 7) and there were three arrests. A thousand people also marched Friday (November 7) in San Francisco.

More demonstrations have been held, after the writing of this article and press time with more scheduled to take place and a national day of protest will take place Saturday, November 15, for more information, go online to jointheimpact.com/.

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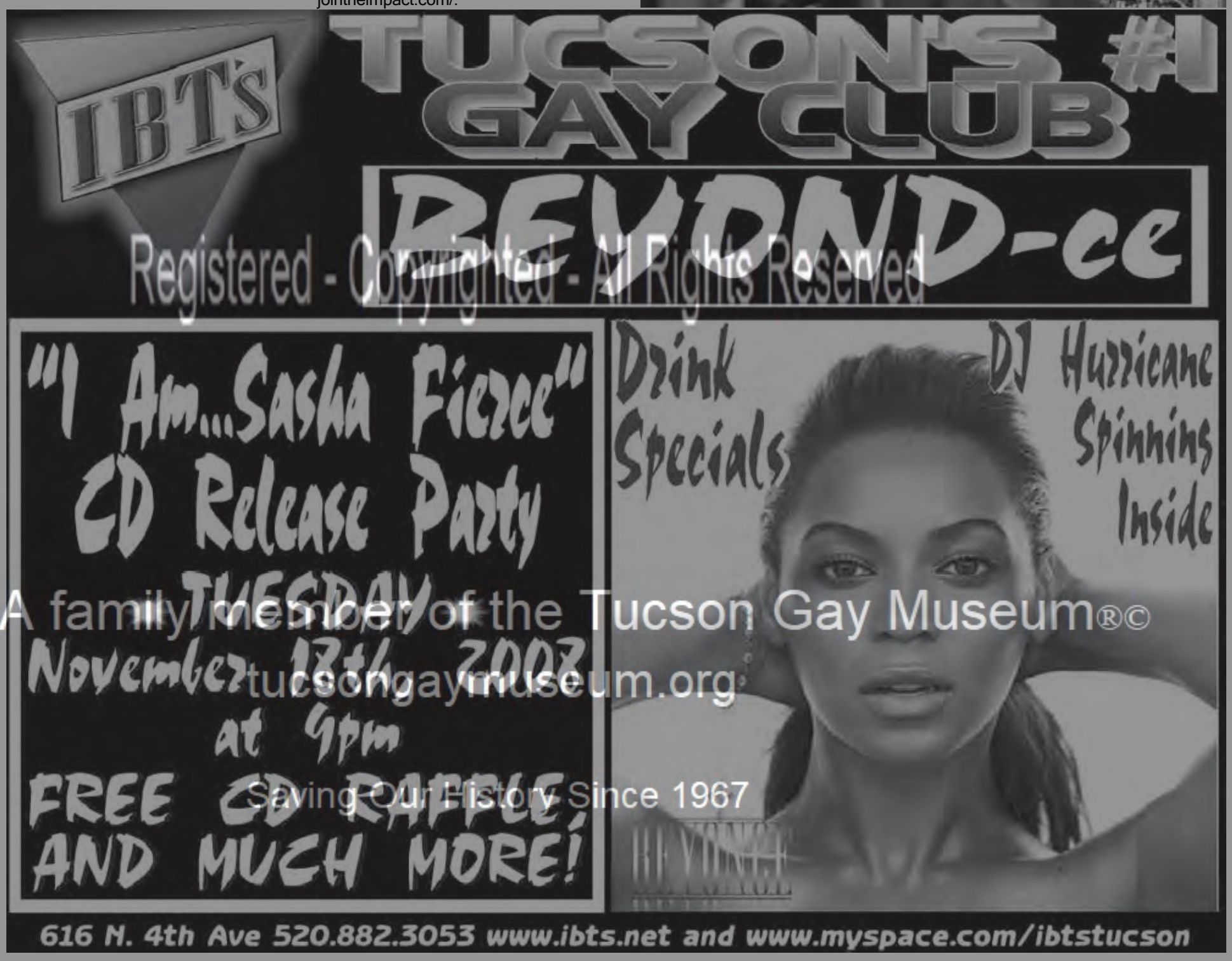

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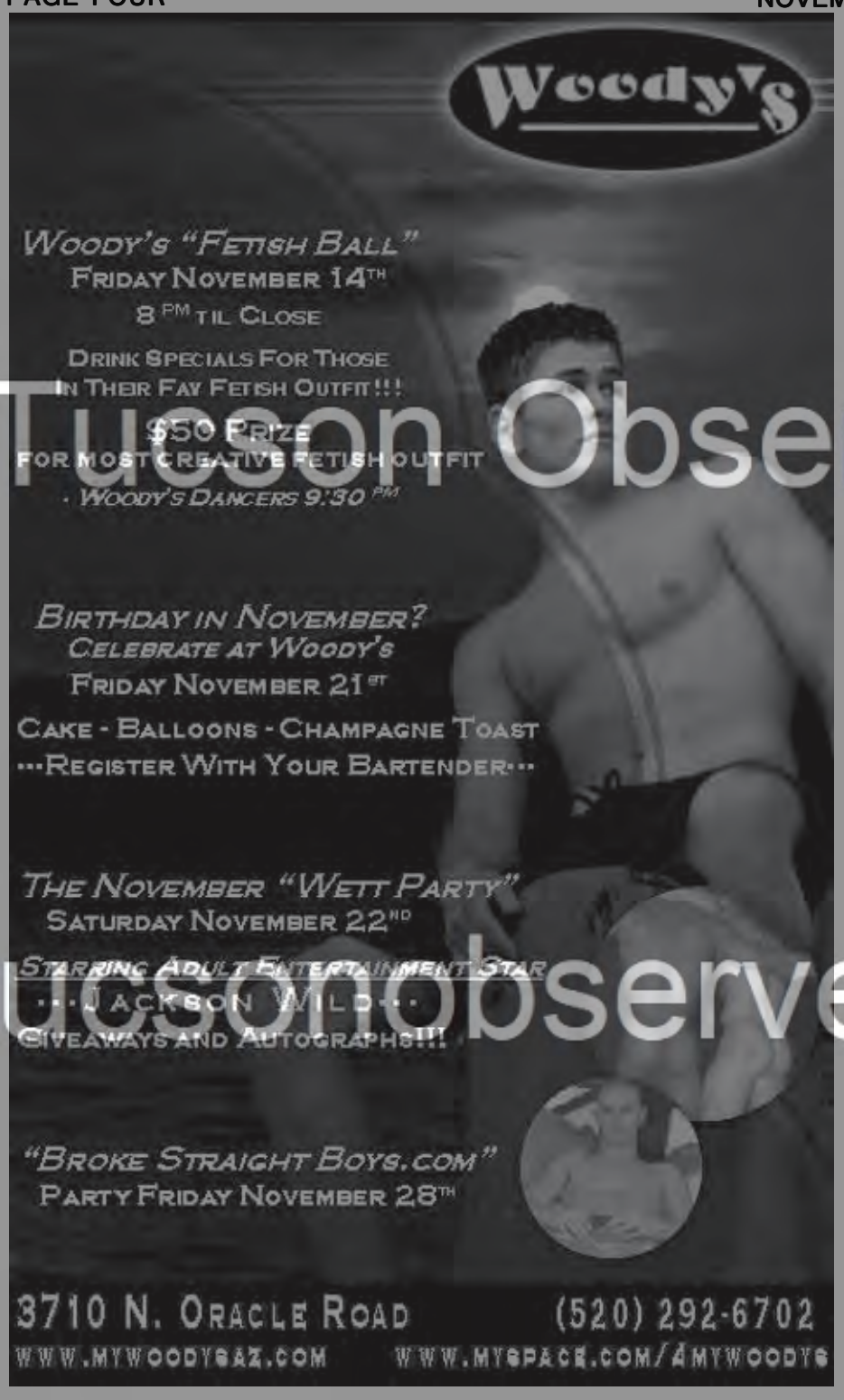

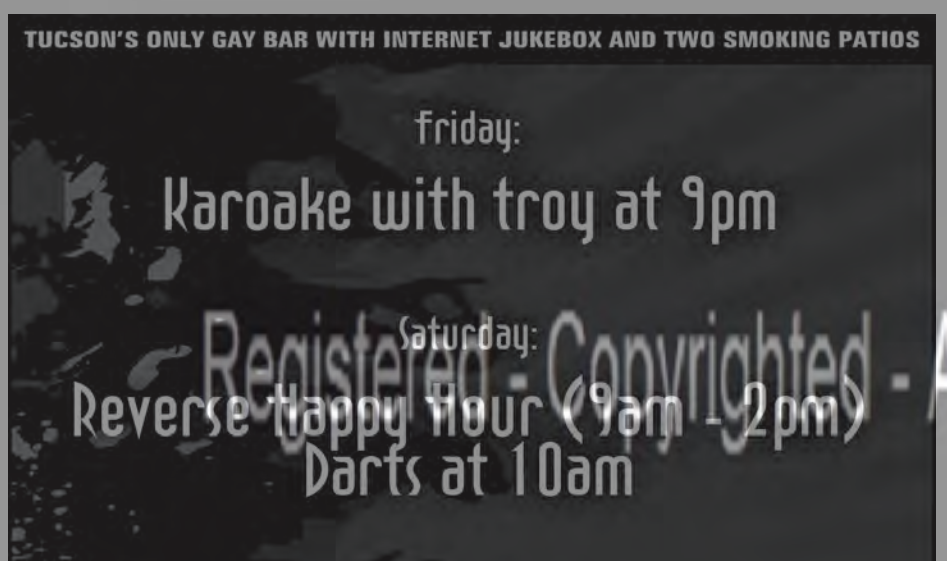

EDITORIAL

We Reserve The Right To Refuse Service To Anyone

In some businesses, one may find an antiquated sign still posted, saying "we reserve the right to refuse service to anyone" but now thanks to many laws still on the books has become irrelevant and potentially costly for the proprietors.

That saying still has a powerful meaning for the consumer, who can utilize it when they are spending their hard earned dollars on various goods, services and sundries.

Consumers expect honesty and to be treated equally and fairly from the businesses they deal with so if they are not, why should one continued to associate with and most important, spend their monies in such a place that treats them as second class citizens or believes these customers don't deserve the same rights as other customers who utilize the business' goods and services.

So those consumers, the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) community of Tucson, Southern Arizona and the rest of the Grand Canyon State in the wake of the passage of Proposition 102 - the marriage amendment, despite Arizona law and court precedent, on November 4, a boycott is in order of those businesses who supported the measure.

A boycott is a form of consumer activism involving the act of voluntarily abstaining from using, buying, or dealing with someone or some other organization as an expression of protest, usually of political, religious, and economic reasons. A boycott is normally considered a one-time affair designed to correct an outstanding single wrong. When extended for a long period of time, or as part of an overall program of awareness-raising or reforms to laws or regimes, a boycott is part of moral purchasing on those economic or political terms are to be preferred.

When Anita Bryant in the 1970's, launched her crusade against local anti discrimination ordinances, the LGBT community launched a boycott of the state of Florida and Florida's orange juice industry - which subsequently dropped Bryant as a spokesperson.

In 1992, when voters in Colorado passed Amendment 2 - repealed all anti discrimination ordinances in the state, a national LGBT boycott was launched and subsequently the amendment was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court.

AM/PM stores in Tucson where boycotted during the 1990's, when it was reported that they had fired individuals from a couple of their stores simply because the individuals were LGBT.

In September 2000, Tucson's LGBT community launched a boycott against KGUN 9 for airing the "Dr. Laura" television program, hosted by Laura Schlessinger, known for her virulently anti-LGBT views, as well as those businesses who advertised on the program (all of whom were listed in this publication), for which the program was subsequently pulled and cancelled in March of 2001.

So as was done with the "Dr. Laura" program in Tucson in 2000, once again it is time for the LGBT community of Tucson and Arizona to speak with their purses and wallets about basic rights and equality, in the wake of Proposition 102 and the Observer, in subsequent editions, will report (using campaign finance reports - Filer ID 200810206) on those businesses who gave contributions or were supportive in regard to the Proposition 102 ballot measure and subsequent campaign.

So where was all the banking done for the proponents of Proposition 102? Try Bank of America, PO Box 25118, Tampa, Florida 33622.

How where the calls handled for yesformarriage.com, through Cricket, 2081 S Arizona Ave, Ste 133, Chandler, Arizona 85286.

Home Depot of Chandler, Mesa and Glendale was where Yes on Proposition 102 got their materials for those signs which polluted the landscape.

So as they did in Florida and California, the Knights of Columbus, 1 Columbus Plz, New Haven, Connecticut 06510, contributed as well, to the tune of $100,000.

How were Proposition 102's signs and other material carted around the state, thanks to Budget Truck Rental of Glendale and Mesa.

Need construction work done, don't bother with the Pete King Corporation, PO Box 9158, Phoenix, Arizona 85068, they were major donors to yesformarriage.com, giving $100,000 (as previously reported) to the effort.

Here is a list of some other businesses as well on Proposition 102's campaign financial reports (either as contributors or doing business with).

Advanced Dentistry, PLLC, 1236 E Fry Blvd, Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635 (contributor)

Media Solutions 3755 E 34th St, Ste 107, Tucson, Arizona 85713 (advertising in Tucson)

Bell Landscaping, LLC 9355 E Wrightstown Rd, Tucson, Arizona 85715 (contributor)

2385 Limited Liability Company, 6820 N Moonglow Dr, Tucson, Arizona 85718 (contributor)

Mayfield Financial & Estate Protection Services, Inc, 2567 N 1st Ave, Tucson, Arizona 85719 (contributor).

This is just a microcosm of them and more will be following in subsequent editions, since this was not just a statewide initiative so more will be following and remember, as consumers, we have the right to refuse service to anyone as well. For those interested in even more details, the reports can be found online at azsos.gov/cfs/PublicReports/2008/F751795F-624D-4502-83C4-FD8E16844FC8.pdf, azsos.gov/cfs/PublicReports/2008/1660B06E-2440-4978-8490-1308210055EA.pdf, azsos.gov/cfs/PublicReports/2008/F13C4158-61AE-4EF7-A8BD-6B85801F0145.pdf.

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World AIDS Day 2008 Adds The Theme Of 'Leadership' To Its Worldwide Campaign Of 'Stop AIDS, Keep The Promise'

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Tucson World AIDS Day Committee supports the World AIDS Day Campaign efforts and public announcement to encourage leaders at all levels to stop AIDS. In order to halt the spread of HIV and AIDS, our community must show leadership and empowerment in helping Southern Arizona to realize a community with no new HIV infections.

2008 marks the 20th anniversary of this day of remembrance through World AIDS Day. Since 1988 many of the challenges surrounding HIV and AIDS have changed. Although many of these changes have been positive (and are highlighted below), the fight is not over. Instead, this anniversary is a reminder of the work that is still left to be done.

Accomplishments over the last 20 years worldwide:

Leaders in most countries from around the world now acknowledge the threat of AIDS, and many have committed to do something about it. As of 2007, nearly all countries have national policies on HIV. However, despite these policies, most have not been fully implemented and many lack funding allocations. While treatment for HIV and AIDS has improved and become more widespread, many still do not have access to it - in 2007 only 31% of those in low- to middle-income countries who need treatment received it.

Despite HIV awareness now reaching nearly all areas of the globe, infection rates are still happening 2.7 times faster than the increase in number of people receiving treatment. While the number of countries protecting people living with HIV continues to increase, 1/3 of countries still lack legal protections and stigma and discrimination continue to be a major threat to universal access. More broadly, real action is still lacking on HIVAIDS and human rights. Legal barriers to HIV services still exist for groups such as women, adolescents, sex workers, people who use drugs, and men having sex with men, and programmatic responses promoting HIV-related human rights have yet to be prioritized.

World AIDS Day was established in 1988 by The World Health Organization designating December 1st of each year as a day to demonstrate the importance of AIDS and show solidarity for the cause. This underlining principle of solidarity and awareness remains the same today. To achieve this goal, leadership and action are needed now. Governments must deliver on the promises they have made. Communities must encourage leadership of its members. Individuals must feel empowered to access treatment, to know their rights and take action against stigma and discrimination, and to know and use methods of prevention against receiving and transmitting HIV. Now, more than ever is the time to lead - empower - deliver.

To find out more on how Tucson will be observing World AIDS Day on Monday, December 1, 2008 please visit myspace.com/worldaidsdaytucson.com.

COMMENTARY. . . .

by Melissa Etheridge

You Can Forget My Taxes

Okay. So Prop 8 passed. Alright, I get it. 51% of you think that I am a second class citizen. Alright then. So my wife, uh I mean, roommate? Girlfriend? Special lady friend? You are gonna have to help me here because I am not sure what to call her now. Anyways, she and I are not allowed the same right under the state constitution as any other citizen. Okay, so I am taking that to mean I do not have to pay my state taxes because I am not a full citizen. I mean that would just be wrong, to make someone pay taxes and not give them the same rights, sounds sort of like that taxation without representation thing from the history books.

Okay, cool I don't mean to get too personal here but there is a lot I can do with the extra half a million dollars that I will be keeping instead of handing it over to the state of California. Oh, and I am sure Ellen will be a little excited to keep her bazillion bucks that she pays in taxes too. Wow, come to think of it, there are quite a few of us fortunate Gay folks that will be having some extra cash this year. What recession? We're Gay! I am sure there will be a little box on the tax forms now single, married, divorced, Gay, check here if you are Gay, yeah, that's not so bad. Of course all of the waiters and hairdressers and UPS workers and gym teachers and such, they won't have to pay their taxes either.

Gay people are born everyday. You will never legislate that away.

Oh and too bad California, I know you were looking forward to the revenue from all of those extra marriages. I guess you will have to find some other way to get out of the budget trouble you are in. ...Really?

When did it become okay to legislate morality? I try to envision someone reading that legislation "eliminates the right" and then clicking yes. What goes through their mind? Was it the frightening commercial where the little girl comes home and says, "Hi mom, we learned about Gays in class today" and then the mother gets that awful worried look and the scary music plays? Do they not know anyone who is Gay? If they do, can they look them in the face and say "I believe you do not deserve the same rights as me"? Do they think that their children will never encounter a Gay person? Do they think they will never have to explain the 20% of us who are Gay and living and working side by side with all the citizens of California?

I got news for them, someday your child is going to come home and ask you what a Gay person is. Gay people are born everyday. You will never legislate that away. I know when I grew up Gay was a bad word. Homo, lezzie, faggot, dyke. Ignorance and fear ruled the day. There were so many "thems" back then. The blacks, the poor ... you know, "them". Then there was the immigrants. "Them." Now the them is me.

I tell myself to take a breath, okay take another one, one of the thems made it to the top. Obama has been elected president. This crazy fearful insanity will end soon. This great state and this great country of ours will finally come to the understanding that there is no "them". We are one. We are united. What you do to someone else you do to yourself. That "judge not, lest ye yourself be judged" are truthful words and not Christian rhetoric.

Today the Gay citizenry of this state will pick themselves up and dust themselves off and do what we have been doing for years. We will get back into it. We love this state, we love this country and we are not going to leave it. Even though we could be married in Mass. or Conn, Canada, Holland, Spain and a handful of other countries, this is our home. This is where we work and play and raise our families. We will not rest until we have the full rights of any other citizen. It is that simple, no fearful vote will ever stop us, that is not the American way.

Come to think of it, I should get a federal tax break too...

(Melissa Etheridge is an Academy Award-winning and Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter. This article is reprinted from the Daily Beast.)

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Valdez Cruises To 10-Point Re-Election Victory

DALLAS, Texas (Observer Update) - Nation's only Lesbian Latina sheriff fends off anti-Gay attacks, pledges to put aside differences and "do the right thing," reported the Dallas Voice.

Lupe Valdez shown hugging a supporter

Earlier this year, Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez's critics tried to make a big deal out of the fact that her campaign was getting a lot of financial support from LGBT donors out of state. Jonathan Neerman, chairman of the Dallas County Republican Party, told The Dallas Morning News in October that Valdez – the nation's only Lesbian Latina sheriff – was receiving contributions "because of her sexuality and not because of her competence." "What interest do they have in a local sheriff's race?" Neerman asked.

On Tuesday, Nov. 4, however, it was the LGBT community within Dallas County that appeared to give Valdez a big boost as she cruised to re-election over Republican challenger Lowell Cannaday. In a race many expected to be close, Valdez trounced the former Irving police chief by more than 65,000 votes, according to unofficial results from the Dallas County elections office. Valdez captured 388,327 votes to Cannaday's 322,808, or 55 percent to 45 percent.

POLITICS 2008

by Mark R. Kerr

Provisional Early Voting

As previously reported in this column and publication, ballots (vote by mail and/or provisional), are still being tabulated by election officials in Arizona's fifteen counties for the general election held November 4.

With the ongoing counting of votes cast, the outcome of who was won seats on the Arizona Corporation Commission, as well as the Arizona House of Representatives and Senate for a couple of Legislative Districts (including Pima County's District 26) is still pending as well as Proposition 101, the ballot measure that would prohibit the implementation of a universal health insurance program in Arizona, which was losing in the most recent count - by a narrow margin but could not be called.

Arizona Senator John McCain, the Republican nominee for President, despite name recognition and a home-state edge, narrowly won the popular vote cast by registered voters in the state, by a little more than just 10% to the winner, Democratic Senator and presidential nominee and now, president-elect, Barack Obama of Illinois, who won the national popular vote, as well as the Electoral College vote. In addition, Obama won the neighboring state (surrounding Arizona) of New Mexico, Nevada, Colorado and California, as well as 365 total Electoral votes.

Arizona's delegation in Congress, specifically the U.S. House of Representatives, will be a majority Democratic one for the upcoming 111th Session of Congress, holding five of the eight House seats, occurring when former Democratic state Representative Ann Kirkpatrick defeated the Republican Legislative lobbyist, Sydney Hay, in the Congressional District One race. In Southern Arizona, incumbent Democrat and strong support of the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) and HIV/AIDS communities, U.S. Representative Raul Grijalva, romped to an easy victory in Congressional District Seven, over his Republican, anti immigrant and virulently anti-LGBT opponent.

In Southern Arizona's other U.S. House seat, in District 8, U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords, the Democratic incumbent, faced the soon-to-be former state Senate President and Republican challenger, Tim Bee. Senator Bee, who was the prime sponsor and deciding vote to place Arizona's Proposition 102 on the ballot, hoping it would be the "wedge issue" to help propel him to victory, had his political "ass handed to him on a plate" by Giffords superb record and exemplary campaign, losing by more than 12% of the vote, making Giffords the first Democrat to win reelection in the history of this Congressional District.

Giffords, Grijalva and Kirkpatrick will be joined in the 111th Congress by Democratic incumbents, Harry Mitchell (Congressional District Five) and Ed Pastor (Congressional District Four). Incumbent Republican Congressman Trent Franks (Congressional District Two), John Shaddegg (Congressional District Three) and Jeff Flake (Congressional District Six) were also reelected.

Republican state Representative Marion McClure of Tucson sponsored legislation and subsequent voted for the measure to place Proposition 102 on the ballot. Like Tim Bee, McClure, with her public declaration's of "Christianity," hoped the ballot measure would be the springboard to higher office, the Arizona Corporation Commission, especially after McClure's half-assed effort to get a measure on the ballot, a watered down one to boot, dealing with payday loan businesses. As with Bee, the voters gave McClure the "voided" sign on her candidacy for the Commission on election day, November 4.

Arizona voters had several ballot measures to consider on November 4, most of which they gave their "thumbs down" in the polling booth to: extending the life of payday loan centers, check cashing businesses and auto title loans, saying no to Proposition 200; rewarding voters for not casting ballots (Proposition 105); providing legal protections for new home buyers (Proposition 201); a real estate transfer tax (Proposition 100); a pay raise to Arizona's Legislators (Proposition 300) as well as a bond override in the Tucson Unified School District (Proposition 403).

Two other overrides for smaller school districts in Pima County were approved by their voters, as well as a ballot proposition, setting standards of cuisine for racing greyhounds at Tucson's Greyhound Park and then there was Proposition 102, showing that greyhounds in Arizona will get better treatment in the eyes of the law than Gays and Lesbians will.

Proposition 102 was the proposed state constitutional amendment to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman and was defeated by Pima County voters but unfortunately, the other fourteen counties cast ballots and despite state law and court precedent, voters bought the lies and spin and approved the "wedge issue" from Karl Rove's "political playbook by a 56% to 44% margin and in turn helped the Republicans, the primary supporters and sponsors of the proposition to gain two seats in Arizona's state House of Representatives.

Despite Proposition 102 and the lower turnout of voters in this election, Pima County is sending Democrats Manny Alvarez, Jorge Luis Garcia, Paula Aboud and Linda Lopez to the Arizona Senate, as well as Republican state Representative and Proposition 102 supporter, Jonathan Paton, who won his bid for the state's upper chamber. For the Arizona House, Pima County is sending Democrats Pat Fleming, Nancy Young-Wright, Olivia Cajero-Bedford, Phil Lopes, Steve Farley, David Bradley, Daniel Patterson and Matt Heinz. Republicans Vic Williams, Frank Antenori and David Gowan were also elected.

On November's ballot in Pima County, there were two contested elections for the Board of Supervisors (District 3 seat) as well as for County Attorney. Observer endorsed candidate Sharon Bronson, the Democratic Supervisor and incumbent, was easily reelected, as well as current County Attorney, Democrat Barbara LaWall who triumphed over her Republican and Green Party challengers.

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Proposition 102 Vote Polarizes Arizona

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - The passage of Arizona's constitutional ban on same-sex marriages didn't quite ignite the legal firestorm that has raged in California since voters approved its marriage amendment, reported the Arizona Republic. But Arizona's vote in favor of Proposition 102 has deepened the social divide as much here as in California and in Florida, the third state where voters approved a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman.

Activists say battles will continue in Arizona over issues related to same-sex couples: inheritance rights, medical decision-making and burial rights, to name a few of the estimated 300 rights that Arizona automatically confers on married couples. Federal law grants an additional 1,100 rights. "There are many more rights that we need to fight for and address instead of just the right to marry," said Barbara McCullough-Jones, executive director of Equality Arizona.

Others agreed. "This amendment, cruel as it was, was not the final word," said Evan Wolfson, executive director of the Freedom to Marry coalition, which promotes marriage rights for people of the same gender. More than 200 supporters of the Gay community rallied at the corner of Camelback Road and Central Avenue in Phoenix on Monday night.

They held candles and signs that said "Stop the LDS" and "Prop 102 makes me a second-class citizen." They chanted, "Equality now, equality today," and they sang the civil-rights anthem We Shall Overcome. "We're here to recognize the families that our constitution does not," said Gay-rights organizer Meg Sneed, 26, of Phoenix. "Losing 102 will just cause us to fight harder. As Barack Obama said, 'Yes, we can,' and yes we will."

State Sen. Ken Cheuvront, a Phoenix Democrat and one of several openly Gay politicians in attendance, said that history would be against those who voted for this initiative. "Whether it be today or tomorrow, we will have Gay marriage one day," he said.

For now, Arizona will, in many respects, continue business as usual. Same-sex marriage has been outlawed in Arizona for 12 years. Gay-rights supporters say they don't see a legal battle erupting here. Arizona resolved a legal fight over the constitutionality of same-sex marriage earlier this decade when the Arizona Court of Appeals upheld the one-man, one-woman intent of Arizona's law.

Wolfson said views on same-sex marriage, like other issues, evolve over time, and that civil rights advance in a patchwork fashion, with some states ahead of the pack and others trailing. Laws, and even constitutions, can change as society changes its views, he said. Same-sex couples can obtain many rights through powers of attorney, but that involves costly legal fees, something married couples don't have to bear, McCullough-Jones said.

In the aftermath of Prop. 102, she said, opponents first need a way to vent their anger and hurt. Monday's candlelight vigil was designed as a peaceful way to do just that, she said. "We're taking a step back, taking a deep breath and letting the anger of Prop. 102 pass," McCullough-Jones said.

Others are wasting no time in taking action. Linda Perdue canceled a Colorado River rafting trip that she, her partner and another Gay couple had planned for May. Perdue, an Indianapolis resident, said her group was poised to spend $10,000 on the trip, but last week's vote brought an abrupt end to those plans. "Why would we bring $10,000 to $12,000 into a state that thought that this (discrimination) is OK?" she asked. "It probably means we won't go to Florida for a long time, too."

McCullough-Jones said she understood the sentiments, but said that she didn't encourage the kind of tourism boycotts that made Arizona famous during the state's struggle to establish a holiday recognizing Martin Luther King Jr. Instead, Gays and Lesbians should make some noise about their travel and tourism impact on Arizona so people realize their economic impact, she said.

Oregon City Elects Transgender Mayor

SILVERTON, Oregon (Observer Update) Plenty of politicians reinvent themselves, but few do it quite like Mayor-elect Stu Rasmussen, reported 365Gay.com. Rasmussen has been a fixture in Silverton politics for more than 20 years, and had twice before been mayor of the small city 45 miles south of Portland. Those terms, however, were before Rasmussen began earing dresses and 3-inch heels in public, receiving breast implants and beginning to transitioning.

Silverton has made Rasmussen the country's first openly Transgender mayor, according to the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a group that works to help openly Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender people win elected office. Rasmussen, 60, unseated incumbent mayor Ken Hector, with whom he had long clashed, by 1,988 votes to 1,512. Because Rasmussen's appearance was no secret, the campaign was dominated by policy issues. "I've blackmail-proofed myself," Rasmussen said.

The story of Rasmussen's election was first reported by JustOut, a bimonthly publication for Portland's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender communities. "Stu never sought this recognition out," said JustOut reporter Stephen Marc Beaudoin. "He's interested in doing a great job for the community that he loves. The gender identity thing is just a total backseat thing." That comes across when Rasmussen speaks in his decidedly masculine voice. "I am a dude," he said. "I am a heterosexual male who appears to be a female." His longtime live-in girlfriend, Victoria Sage, told The Oregonian newspaper that she and Rasmussen have been an item for almost 35 years.

Stu Rasmussen

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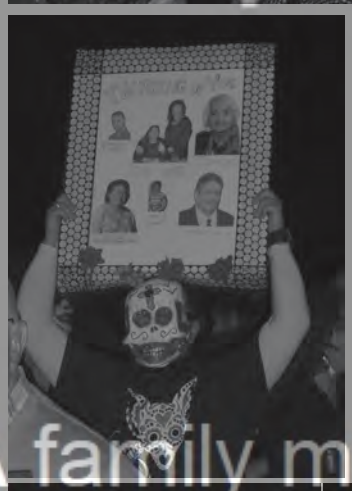

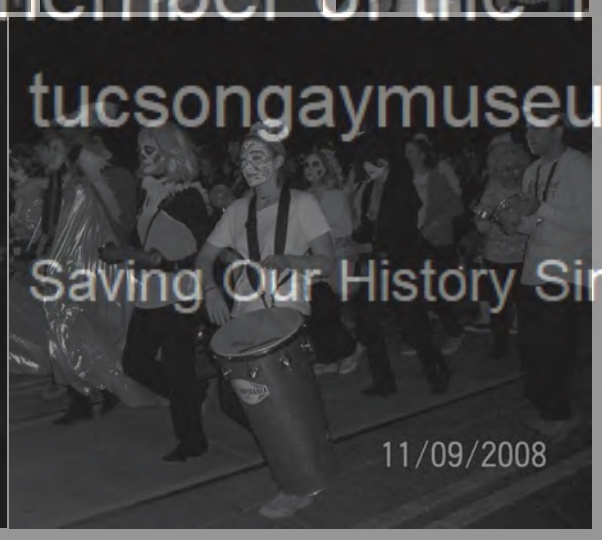

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Craig Raises Just $4,500 For Legal Fees

BOISE, Idaho (Observer Update) - Since June, outgoing U.S. senator Larry Craig of Idaho has managed to raise just $4,645 to pay for his effort to overturn his guilty plea for disorderly conduct, according to the Pioneer Press.

Following his arrest in a sex sting at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport in 2007, Craig has been fighting his initial guilty plea in Minnesota's courts. He pleaded guilty by mail without consulting an attorney. Once news traveled that Craig had been arrested, he tried to rescind his guilty plea. His latest court appearance was September 10 in front of the Minnesota court of appeals, which denied his request. The Ethics Committee said Craig's arrest and his attempt to cover it up cast a shadow over the U.S. Senate. The bipartisan committee also found that Craig spent more than $200,000 in leftover campaign money in an attempt to overturn his guilty plea without the the committee's approval. Craig then established the so-called Fund for Justice in June to solicit donations.

Craig, who did not seek reelection this month, will retire in January after nearly three decades in Congress. Idaho lieutenant governor Jim Risch won Craig's seat on Tuesday November 4, reported advocate.com.

'Grey's Anatomy' Axes Lesbian Story Line; Fires Brooke Smith

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - Grey's Anatomy has axed actress Brooke Smith, successfully putting the nail in the coffin in what could have been a thoughtful blossoming Lesbian relationship between her character, Erica, and Sara Ramirez's Callie. While Grey's writers have teased and taunted audiences while amassing a devoted Lesbian following in anticipation of what was purportedly going to be a well-written love story between two women, producers curtailed the story line in a fell swoop, firing Smith.

Shonda Rhimes, the show's executive producer, issued a statement regarding Smith's release, but according to EW 's Michael Ausiello, it appears the show intends to straighten out a few upcoming episodes that originally boasted more Lesbian-themed content. "Brooke Smith was obviously not fired for playing a Lesbian. Clearly it's not an issue as we have a Lesbian character on the show – Calliope Torres," Rhimes said in a statement released Tuesday. "Sara Ramirez is an incredible comedic and dramatic actress, and we wanted to be able to play up her magic. Unfortunately, we did not find that the magic and chemistry with Brooke's character would sustain in the long run.

"The impact of the Callie/Erica relationship will be felt and played out in a story for Callie. I believe it belittles the relationship to simply replace Erica with 'another Lesbian.' If you'll remember, Cristina mourned the loss of Burke for a full season." In an interview with (in which the pointedly asked "What the hell happened?!") said, "I was very excited when they told me that Erica and Callie were going to have this relationship. And I really hoped we were going to show what happens when two women fall in love and that they were going to treat it like any heterosexual couple on TV. And so I was surprised and disappointed when they just suddenly told me that they couldn't write for my character anymore, reported advocate.com.

Equality Ride Arrests Mount Up

CONWAY, Arkansas (Observer Update) Four more members of the nondenominational Soulforce Equality Ride have been arrested attempting to enter the grounds of a conservative Christian college, reported 365Gay.com. The latest arrests came at Central Baptist College, in Conway, Ark. Upon their arrival, Riders were met by President Terry Kimbrow, who informed Riders that they were not permitted onto campus and that they would be arrested for trespassing if they proceeded.

Riders began a vigil just outside CBC property but four Riders, who said they wanted to speak with students who had gathered on campus several yards from the vigil, entered onto college property and were arrested for trespassing. They are identified as Lauren Parke of Seattle, Wash.; Alex Lundy of Syosset, N.Y.; and Katie Higgins and Enzi Tanner, both of Minneapolis, Minn. They were released after formal charges were pressed. "It is unfortunate that the school chose to deny us the opportunity to create dialogue on campus," Lundy said after his release. "We feel that the message of safety and inclusion for all students, including those who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender is too important to be limited by property lines." Following the arrests, a number of students crossed out of the campus to speak directly with the Riders. They were later joined by students from nearby Hendrix College and by Arkansas residents Bob and Mary Lou Wallner, who are featured in the film "For the Bible Tells Me So."

"I think it's unfortunate that they intentionally went to jail to make a point," said college president Kimbrow. "What they are espousing is opposed to our beliefs. That's why I denied having them on campus."

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Third Gay Elected To Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Colorado Democrat Jared Polis will become the third openly Gay member of Congress when he is sworn in in January, 365Gay.com reported. Polis, a 33-year-old entrepreneur who made millions creating Internet-based businesses, beat Republican Scott Starin to represent the 2nd District, which includes his hometown of Boulder.

Polis will join fellow Democrats Barney Frank (Mass.) and Tammy Baldwin (Wisc.) in the House. There have been at least five other Gays and Lesbians in Congress, including currently serving Reps. Frank and Baldwin. Frank came out while in Congress. Baldwin was open about her sexuality when first elected. Frank and Baldwin had little difficulty winning re-election. Polis' 2nd District is firmly Democratic, but he took no chances and ran a strong campaign, putting much of his own money into the run. He also had the support of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. Previously, Polis was elected statewide to the Colorado State Board of Education from 2001 - 2007. During that time he served a term as vice-chairman and one as chairman. In 2000, he founded the Jared Polis Foundation, which works to improve and expand access to education. Its annual Teacher Recognition Awards celebrate the enormous commitment and importance of teachers. Hundreds of teachers and their schools receive micro-grants as part of this program. Polis came out publicly while serving on the Board of Education. During his tenure on the Board, he successfully worked to establish new ways to help schools close the learning gap, improved access to online education, helped win increased funding for at-risk students, and worked to improve teacher preparation programs at our colleges and universities.

Polis also co-chaired a successful $300 million bond initiative in the Boulder Valley School District to make repairs and upgrades to learning environments across the district as well as improve energy efficiency. The only other candidate seeking a seat in Congress, Democrat Linda Ketner, lost her bid for South Carolina's 1st District. She ran against four-term Republican incumbent Henry Brown.

Third Episcopal Diocese Splits From Church Over Gays

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - A third theologically conservative diocese has broken away from the liberal Episcopal Church in a long-running dispute over the Bible, Gay relationships and other issues. The Diocese of Quincy, Ill., took the vote at its annual meeting that ends Saturday (November 8). Two other dioceses - San Joaquin, based in Fresno, Calif., and Pittsburgh - have already split off. Next weekend, the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, will vote whether to follow suit.

The three breakaway dioceses are aligning with the like-minded Anglican Province of the Southern Cone, based in Argentina, to try to keep their place in the world Anglican Communion. The 77-million-member Anglican fellowship, which includes the U.S. Episcopal Church, has roots in the missionary work of the Church of England. Meanwhile, National Episcopal leaders are reorganizing the seceding dioceses with local parishioners who want to stay in the church. Complex legal fights have already started in San Joaquin over control of millions of dollars in diocesan property and assets.

The head of the New York-based denomination, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, said in a statement Saturday: "We lament the departure" in Quincy. The Quincy diocese, based in Peoria, has 24 churches and missions, and about 1,800 members. The Rev. John Spencer, a diocesan spokesman, said local leaders would comment after the convention concludes. Clergy and lay delegates at the Quincy meeting approved withdrawal on a 95 to 26 vote. Episcopalians and their fellow Anglicans have been debating for decades over how they should interpret what Scripture says on issues ranging from salvation to sexuality.

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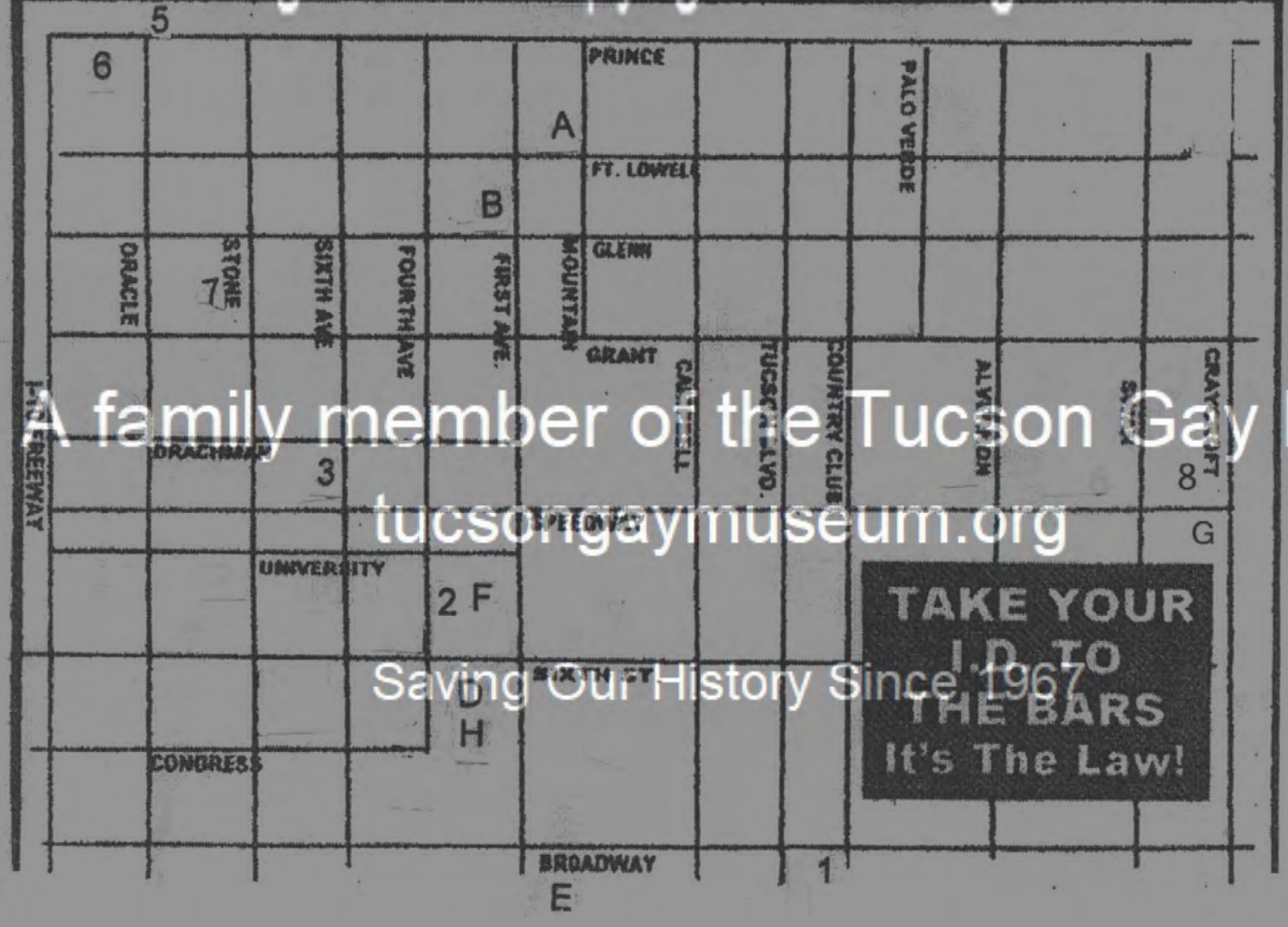

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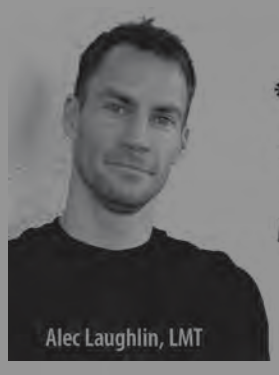

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Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

All Aboard

I am, at last, proud of America; President Obama! I know, I know...he's President elect Obama right now, and I am sure the current "occupant" of the White House has the door barred and the dogs out. Never mind that; he's our President! Odd, to have a man of actual intelligence be elected. The specter of a Palin white house, following on the heels of the Howdy-Doody administration, was too much. The entire world is weary of American arrogance; we are ridiculed because our leaders have been ridiculous.

So here we are, with an emperor all decked out in a new suit that everybody can see, Howdy-Doody holed up signing last minute executive orders and all the rest of us looking for work or glad we aren't yet. Obama is already at work, of course, lining up his agenda, allies and plans. If there was ever a president that had a lot to do, it's Obama. The mess is a big mess...I imagine sometimes the republicans threw the election (Palin was too unbelievable) of a purpose; give Obama four years to slog through the swamp and then take the White House back by being critical of his lackluster success. I know, I know....they aren't that crafty; Sarah Palin wasn't a stupid pick to them because they are stupid.

Even so, it is impossible to imagine that Obama will be able to put this Humpty-Dumpty nation back together again in four short years, even with the help of all the kings men (assuming the Congress can ramp up their intelligence enough to follow along). What Obama is going to need is us. What to do? We need to do what we already do, but do it better. Stronger. With feeling and a two part harmony. There is always talk of how we have to make sacrifices; not so. What we have to do is just try harder, think a little clearer and do it all a little better. And we need to shine the light into all the little dark corners and get honest about what our society is really like. The worst thing in the world isn't that the government isn't honest and effective; it's that we all have come to expect it.

When we accept and expect our government to be as silly as Sarah Palin, when we look at the fact that Bush has somehow been spared the Clinton-style special prosecutor, it is easy to see that it is our society that has allowed our county to decline. If you don't see a declining America, you must be one of the elect that works at the local missile factory; business is good there. Might have gotten a lot better if McCain had won, what?

Here's my deal; I am off national politics. Obama won. We got rid of the clowns who, with the wit-less aid of a fat and lazy Congress, were taking the nation for a ride. Now it's time to do for ourselves what we helped do for America; get rid of the rats. Let's look at our little community, our Pueblo (as those that like to add a dash of Southwest call it). There is lots of what we had in Washington right here. There are plenty of humans who prey on other humans. Let's out it. Like Obama, I need your help. I know where to look for some of it... you know where more of it is; shine your light on it so I can see it and we will out it. Let's get after Tucson, now that we are done with Washington for a while. Why stop? We're on a roll. And Obama needs us to clear away some of the deadwood, the obstructionists, the predatory. If we let any of the poison that has crept into our society stay on, we loose what we have gained. Let us examine our society from the bottom up and see what we can see.

National politics are out. Society is in. Tell me what you live.

(You can reach Jimmy Petrol at; Jpetroulisx@yahoo.com.)

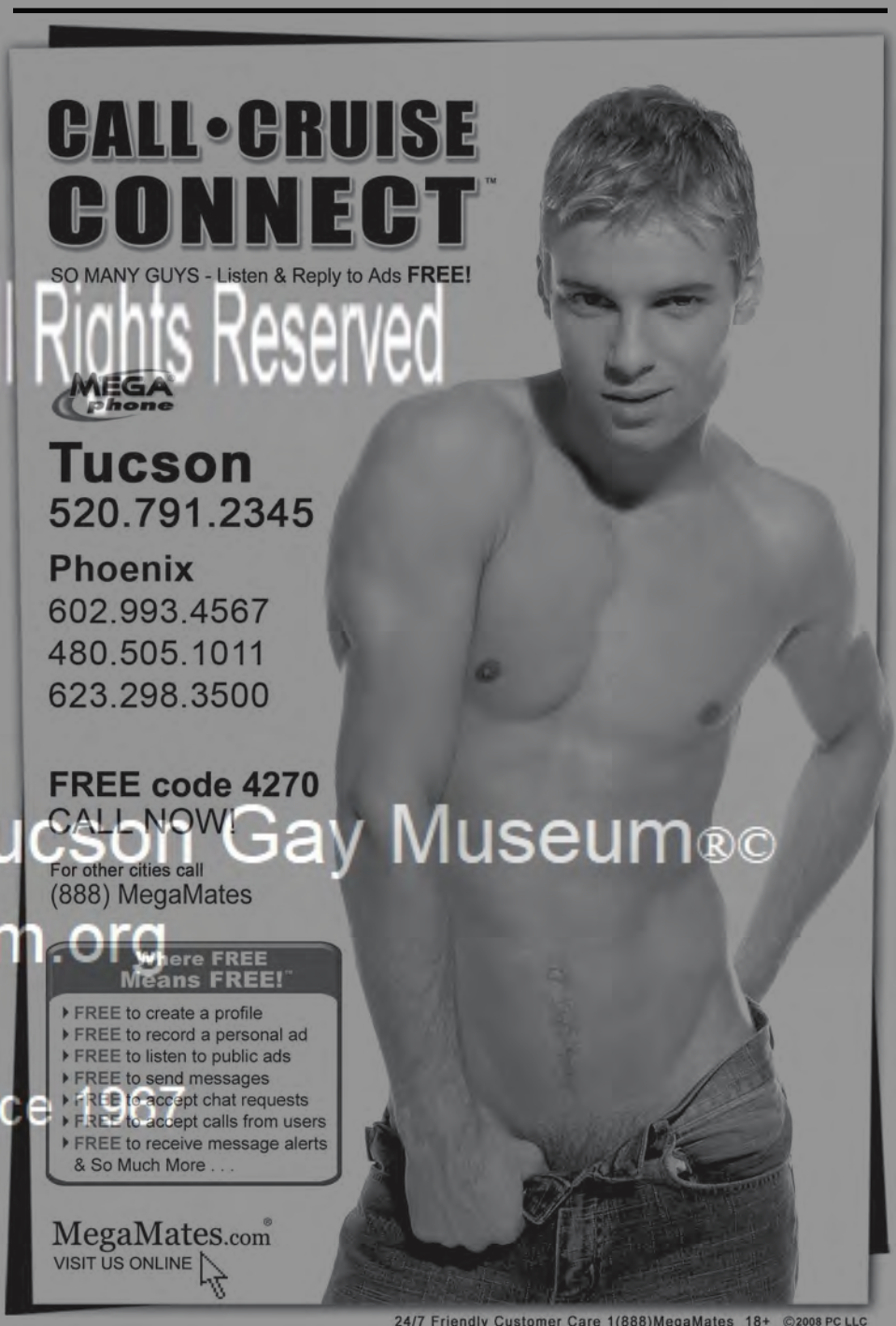
Much Ado About Nothing

by Jack Melichar

HAIR, the American Tribal-Love musical comes to Tucson. It will be here (at the Temple of Music and Art in downtown Tucson) from November 29 - December 28, with the official opening night being December 5. However, if you purchase your tickets during the week of November 10-14 for select performances, you will receive a free HAIR t-shirt. Call (520) 622-2823 for more information, to get your tickets, and your FREE T-shirt today!

I will have more about this musical - one which helped define a generation - in a later edition. Oh, and please be aware that the musical has nudity and "adult" language - you know, the kind of language used by fifth and sixth graders and hardly ever by adults! Just remember THIS IS THE DAWNING OF THE AGE OF AQUARIUS

And on a sad note, Miriam Makeba, (widely known as Mamma Africa) a South African singer whose voice stirred hope of freedom in her own country, even though her music was formally banned by the apartheid authorities she struggled against, died on Monday (November 10) after performing a concert in Italy. She was 76. We need more people of her integrity.



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HOROSCOPES

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Mercury enters secretive Scorpio and makes every thought and opinion a strategic maneuver. Let's massage our message and see how heated things become.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Gay Rams can't seem to be able to get sex off their minds or concentrate on anything else. Why fight it? But it has gotten to the point that love must provide you with more than a blissful lift. It needs to offer advancement and financing. How can you find your true soulmate who is willing to let you coast and spend? Mercury in Scorpio sez don't worry, this shall pass.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Queer Bulls turn a thought or two to relationships. The very idea of being out and about with an attractive bookend is beginning to grow on you. But you would rather die than suffer the embarrassment of letting others know your need. Well your big secret is Out: They already know... and they are trying to fix you up. Try to act surprised, okay?

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Mercury in Scorpio makes you balanced and organized. Pink Twins feel in control, can maximize their efforts with good planning and can stop any time-wasting leak. The secret to your success is to extend your excellent vibes into all areas of your life, not just on the job. All work and no play makes you just another side of beef in need of tenderizing.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Do you feel the heated beat? It must be the thumping energy of manic Mercury in Scorpio. Gay Crabs are electrified and electrifying as fun and creative ideas merge and glow. Connect to a few community grids and see how hot you can burn. But take things as they come; surges in power can lead to a blackout... or a lost weekend. Ah, but what a way to go!!

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Proud Lions can happily settle in and nestle in their nest as Mercury enters Scorpio. Your mind is sparked with great home decorating and entertaining ideas. Plan them out and put them into action. This cosmic energy also provides the social buzz so get your blackberry out and add a few sweetened dates. You'll be baking in no time. Who will be the first to taste a slice?

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

What is it about queer Virgins that lead them to think that their opinions are the final word on the subject? I don't know but now, as Mercury enters Scorpio you are certainly the mouth that roars. You have great charisma and attract a willing and pliable crowd to your door. What ideas are percolating, pardner? Let them overflow instead of drip. Then jump in.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Thoughts quickly turn to money and even more money. Proud Libras discover how to stretch a dollar. Use this time to stretch it to the outer limits and create a firm financial trampoline. Even in this dour economy, there is a part of you who longs to let loose and spend to the hilt. Don't. Consolidate your assets and be sure to get what you pay for.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

You score with the paparazzi when Mercury glides into your own sign. Smile! Queer Scorps seem to know exactly what to say at the exact right time to make the crowds roar with ecstasy. But because it comes so easily now, there is a tendency to fall into lazy patterns and become an insufferable petulant diva. Ah, so this is this new??

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Mercury in Scorpio recharges your intuition. Gay Archers suddenly feel that they have all the answers, as whispered to them by the wilde, untamed cosmic spirits. But before you broadcast these amazing insights to the general swirl, I would stop and consider the source. Frankly, I don't think Republicans and Democrats are having a kumbaya moment now.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

If you are in the doldrums and without your usual circle of rowdy pals, you will welcome Mercury in Scorpio. Pink Caps are suddenly on the top of every ones "must do" list and your social calendar fills to bursting. Be careful of what you wish though; all this over activity can make you feel like a slab of tired old rump roast. Pace yourself and remain a tenderloin.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Aqueerians always seem to have their beady eyes on the corporate prize. Now, as Mercury enters Scorpio, you find that you can better fulfill your corporate manifest destiny with a few choice words to the right powers-that-be. Place yourself strategically in the center of attention and let your natural political abilities run free. A stuffed shirt is born!

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

There is nothing that eggs a Guppie on more than the opportunity to change the world. While I can't promise miracles, I can say that Mercury in Scorpio will enable you to turn more than a few heads and sway more than one opinion. Consolidate your thoughts and present them globally through the internet or other mass media. Leave out the screeds and the taunts.

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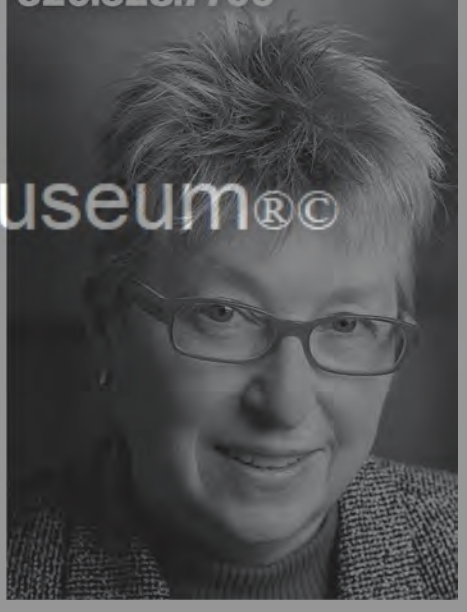

TELL OUR ADVERTISERS
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Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Sues City Over Free Speech

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MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin (Observer Update) - A Gay arts group in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is suing the city for forcing it to shut down a racy show. The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center alleges its free-speech rights were violated when the city had them close the show Naked Boys Singing! while the center's application for a theater permit was reviewed, the Associated Press (AP) reports on advocate.com.

In August 2005, the center opened a run of performances of the show, which features nude actors singing musical numbers, even though it hadn't yet received a permit. The local police department soon received a complaint of "illegal nude theater," the AP reports, and when a detective visited the center, he said the participants could be arrested for performing without a permit. Consequently, the show's director decided to cancel the remaining performances.

Larry Dupuis, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin, who's representing the center, told the AP that he thought the way the city handled the matter was extreme. "I think the title made it kind of controversial," Dupuis said. "But of course, The Full Monty has nudity in it, and that doesn't get it threats to shut it down." Dupuis added that Milwaukee's theater-permits process is so vague that it can be used in political ways. "It could be used to discriminate," Dupuis told the AP, "and we suspect that there was some sort of discriminatory thinking that went into the decision-making somewhere along the line."

Producer Imagines James Bond As Black But Not Gay

LONDON, UK (Observer Update) - The producer behind more than a decade of 007 movies said she can imagine James Bond as a black man but not as a Gay secret agent.

"Definitely you could have a black James Bond, just as there is already a black U.S. president," said Barbara Broccoli in an interview published in the German magazine Stern.

But the producer expressly rejected the idea that Bond could be Gay. "A Gay Bond – I don't know," said Broccoli. "That's not how the original character was conceived."

Nicole Kidman Goes From Lesbian To Post-Op Trans

LONDON, UK (Observer Update) - She played a woman with Lesbian leanings in The Hours - and won an Oscar - so Hollywood insiders are tipping awards-glory for Nicole Kidman, who has reportedly signed to play the world's first post-op transexual.

The Australian star will appear alongside Oscar-winner Charlize Theron in The Danish Girl, based on the true story of Danish artists Einar and Greta Wegener. Their marriage took a sharp left turn after Einar (Kidman) stood in for an female model that Greta (Theron) was set to paint.

When their portraits become wildly popular in 1920s Copenhagen, Greta encouraged her husband to adopt the female guise. What began as a harmless game led Einer to a metamorphosis and landmark 1931 operation that shocked the world and threatened their love.

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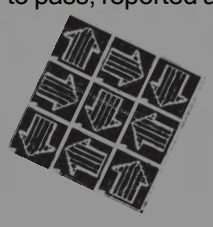
Connecticut Voters Reject Convention, Preserve Marriage Equality

HARTFORD, Connecticut (Observer Update) - A ballot measure to hold Connecticut's first constitutional convention since 1965 was defeated by voters on Tuesday by a 2-to-1 margin. The proposed convention was intended to address concerns over the general assembly's handling of Gay rights issues, eminent domain, and state spending, according to the Hartford Courant. "This election came down to basics: Most people do not want to use the state constitution to take away people's rights," Peggy Shorey, campaign manager for Vote No, told the Courant.

Opponents of same-sex marriage had expressed hope that a convention could lead to a ballot initiative to ban the practice, which the Connecticut supreme court ruled legal last month This particular ballot question, which can be posed to Connecticut voters every 20 years, asks simply, "Shall there be a Constitutional Convention to amend or revise the Constitution of the State?" The Connecticut Catholic Conference – same-sex marriage foes – pushed for the convention, paying for a television commercial that urged a yes vote on Election Day.

If voters had answered yes, delegates would be appointed by the state general assembly and given the chance to propose any changes to the Connecticut constitution, which provides the framework for all branches of state government. Any proposed changes would then go to a statewide vote, according to the [Bridgeport] Connecticut Post. About 40% of voters said yes the convention, but it needed a simple majority to pass, reported advocate.com.



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NON-BAR CALENDAR

Wednesday, November 12
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand and Foot with Marv 745-0304

Thursday, November 13
#1 Men's Social Network. Open to men of all ages. Bridge Join your MSN friends for a night of fun and cards. Call Dick at 298-4392.

#2 Men's Social Network. Triangle Tribe 7:00 p.m... Triangle tribe offers a safe, respectful space for you to join likeminded gay men to share your feeling, thoughts and ideas. Call Tom at 591-2828 for more information

Saturday, November 15
#1Men's Social Network. Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed. Join Ike and Russ for a hike in the Tucson Mountains. We will be leaving at 9:00 Call Ike or Russ at 207-6264 for more information and directions.

#2Men'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, November 16
The Men's Group Massage meets today at 3:30 p.m. It's a great way to meet men and a safe and healthy place learning how to give and receive buddy massage. Call Marc at 881-4582 in advance for questions and to sign up.

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Dinner Out at Chopped. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 908-6160,
E-mail msncommunicator@gmail.com

Monday, November 17
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: Men's Book Club 6:30p.m.Meet Stephen and the group monthly for dinner and discussion of an agreed upon work of gay fiction. Currently, the group meets the 3rd Monday. Contact Stephen at 241-7854 to add yourself to their e-mail list.

NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

TUCSON KNIGHT OWLS (T.K.O)
We are a non profit social club that is open to every one. T.K.O. contributes to the fellowship and support of the community, and openly invites new members and/or guests. Monthly meetings occur on the first Saturday of every month at 11:00 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 20 seasons. Check out our website at www.desertvoices.org, or call (520)791-9662 for information about upcoming concerts or how to join.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friday, November 14
HOWL AT THE MOON - AGRA fundraiser with Bunny FuFu and Reveille Men's Chorus. Country dancing with DJ Pat 9 - 11.

Saturday, November 15
HOWL AT THE MOON - Miss Carousel Pageant 7 - 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 16
HOWL AT THE MOON - "Puttin' on the Hits" weekly talent search with hosts Lucinda Holliday and Tempest du Jour. $600 Grand Prize. Starts aat 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 18
IBT'S - CD Release Party for "I Am...Sasha Fierce" by Beyond-ce at 9:00 p.m. Free CD Raffle and much more. Drink specials with DJ Hurricane spinning incide

Friday, November 21
HOWL AT THE MOON - GLBT Riders Social Hour. 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 22
HOWL AT THE MOON - Bailamos! Latino Dance Night - latest cumbias, baladas, and corridos plus a little old school. Presented by Mobile Sounds. 9:30 p.m.

WOODY'S - "Wett Party"

Friday, November 28
WOODY'S - "Broke Straight Boys" Party

Saturday, November 29
HOWL AT THE MOON - Benefit show with Vivica D'Angely. 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 13
HOWL AT THE MOON - TMI is Back!

BUZZ BRIEFS

Lesbian Becomes Highest Elected LGBT State Official In The Country

SALEM, Oregon (Observer Update) - State Sen. Kate Brown (D) won a narrow victory to become Oregon Secretary of State. Oregon has no lieutenant governor, so Brown's win makes her the second most powerful state politician in Oregon and the highest-ranking LGBT elected state official in the country, 365Gay.com reported. Brown defeated Republican Rick Dancer and Green Party candidate Seth Woolley.

In the state senate Brown had been majority leader, but she faced a tough battle for her party's nomination for Secretary of State. During the general election she sparred with Dancer, a former TV news anchorman, over campaign reform and limits on campaign contributions. Brown had been endorsed by the Victory Fund, a national LGBT organization that helps Gay candidates get elected. "The early and significant support I received from the Victory Fund provided the foundation I needed to run a strong winning primary campaign and positioned me for a successful election," she said.

In other state races across the country, San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano (D) was elected to the California Assembly. Ammiano had served on the Board of Supervisors for 14 years. He had little difficulty defeating Republican Harmeet Dhillon for the seat in Sacramento. Veteran lawmaker Mike Lawlor (D) won a twelfth term to the Connecticut House of Representatives. Prior to his election to the legislature in 1986, Lawlor served as a state prosecutor. Matt Titone (D) won a second term to the NY State Assembly. Two open Lesbians, Jackie Biskupski and Christine Johnson, were re-elected to the Utah House of Representatives. After being term-limited out of the Nevada Assembly, David Parks has won a seat in the state's legislature. Jim Splaine won another term in the New Hampshire House. He said he plans to introduce a marriage equality bill in the legislature in the new session.

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Gay Marriage: Arizona Loses More Than Money

Paula Aboud

Arizonans voted last week to enshrine discrimination of a minority into our state's constitution. Same-sex marriage already was not legal in our state. Yet nearly $8 million was spent gaining the passage of Proposition 102.

What has this fortune bought? And what does Arizona have in store for itself now that it joins 12 other states in this dubious distinction?

Judging by the national anti-Gay movement's history, there is still a long road ahead of us.

The state of Maine has been locked in anti-Gay ballot initiatives time and again over the past 17 years, even though its Legislature passed anti-Gay discrimination laws years ago.

Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm opposed a similar marriage initiative in her state because she feared its passage had the potential to take away domestic partner benefits, which have been recognized by Fortune 500 companies as critical tools to attract and retain a world-class work force.

This fear came to fruition; Michigan is now locked in a Supreme Court challenge to deny domestic partner benefits to all citizens of the state.

While Arizonans may hope the same situation won't befall our state, the fact that the state's anti-Gay group tried to eliminate domestic partner benefits via a ballot initiative in 2006 indicates we're on the list for a similar court challenge.

Arizona is in a desperate financial hole. Several important studies have shown that other states that have passed anti-marriage initiatives will suffer varying degrees of economic loss from the ban on same-sex marriages.

For example, professors at the University of California-Los Angeles, using the best data available to conduct a study, estimated California's economic loss to be approximately $63.8 million over three years.

Arizona's state universities have informed the Legislature that the loss of domestic partner benefits is one more way they are limited in their ability to compete for the best and brightest professors.

In addition, the state's reputation for being intolerant to diversity will cost us lucrative corporate business opportunities and professionals seeking quality of life as a criteria for relocating to Arizona.

How will this state's tourism industry be affected by the intolerance we've enshrined in our constitution? Only time will tell.

Proposition 102 will not stop Gay people from falling in love. Its passage will not stop Gay couples from having children and sharing their lives together.

What Proposition 102 will do is prohibit same-sex couples and their children from ever having the protections to which they're rightfully entitled: hospital visitation rights, pension benefits, health insurance coverage and inheritance rights, to name just a few of the 1,000-plus federal benefits heterosexual couples have that are not afforded to the Gay community.

Proposition 102 will also drive a wedge between families, forcing couples to leave their home state or forgo the essential protections and equal social status afforded by civil marriage. Proposition 102 will also have a harmful economic impact on Arizona and trigger cultural strife at a time when we desperately need to come together to battle the bigger social and economic ills facing the state and the country.

In these hard economic times, for a state that is $1.2 billion in debt, every dollar counts.

But what Arizona has lost is far greater than the mere dollar. It has tarnished its reputation and doomed itself to another national spotlight of negative proportions. And that harms all of us for a long time to come.

(Arizona Sen. Paula Aboud, D-Tucson, represents District 28. This article is reprinted from the Tucson Citizen.)

LGBT Advertising Advocate Commercial Closet Merging

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - Commercial Closet Association, which founder Michael Wilke started 12 years ago to advocate for LGBT diversity in advertising and marketing, will merge with GLAAD and Wilke will leave the operation, reported towleroad.com.

As part of its mission, CCA hosted the Commercial Closet Images in Advertising Awards, which honored progressive and positive portrayals of gay culture in advertising (and, some years, shamed offensive work as well). It also built an online collection of more than 4,000 ads (print and video) that portray Gay lifestyles or imagery. CCA's work will be integrated into GLAAD's new Advertising Media Program. 'Our work will become the basis for their advertising-media program,' said Anthony Cirone, president of the CCA board of directors."

Said GLAAD President Neil Giuliano: "Advertising is woven through every form of media and impacts awareness and understanding of the LGBT community. ... We are excited about this new opportunity to expand the impact of GLAAD's culture-changing work and build upon the trailblazing work of CCA as we launch our Advertising Media Program." The merger has been underway for about six months.

Iran To Push Anti-Gay Islamic Studies In U.K. Colleges

TEHRAN, Iran (Observer Update) - Institutions funded by the British taxpayer could be used to promote the extremist, homophobic, racist, and violent interpretations of Islam used in Iran.

The Tehran Times reports that Iran's Ministry of Science, Research and Technology "feels the necessity to help establish and strengthen departments of Islamic studies." "The ministry is currently studying proposals by numerous world academic centres and universities including several universities from Britain, the United States, and Germany," an official from the cultural department of the ministry announced last month.

"The departments will be set up to train and educate experts on Islam so as to assist in the introduction of Islam and its realities to the world in a proper academic setting," he explained.

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