

IRS Change Recognizes G/L: California Couples



WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - For the first time, the IRS will recognize same-couples in California as a unit for tax purposes under a new ruling by the agency, reported advocate.com.

The Wall Street Journal reports on the change, which reverses a 2006 IRS ruling and may also affect Nevada and Washington state couples.

"Specifically, the agency said nearly 58,000 couples who are registered as domestic partners in California must combine their income and each report half of it on their separate tax returns. Same-sex couples account for an estimated 95% of the state's domestic partnerships; partnership status is also available to heterosexual couples in which one partner is over

age 62."

Same-sex couples cannot file joint federal tax returns under the Defense of Marriage Act, but in California, community-property rules complicate the issue and call for interpretations.

According to the Journal, "An IRS spokesman said the shift is due to a 2007 change in state law. That change dealt with the way the state calculates income for California taxes. Nevada and Washington state are also community-property states that recognize domestic partnerships, and so couples there may also be affected."

Some critics charge the new ruling contradicts the Defense of Marriage Act.

UofA Offers Domestic-Partner Benefits For Employees

TUCSON (Observer Update) - When the state cut health benefits for domestic partners last year, University of Arizona president Robert Shelton said school officials should come up with a way to help them buy separate coverage, the Arizona Daily Star reported.

Now, the university is offering special medical, dental and vision insurance plans for employees with domestic partners. The plans don't use any state money but have similar premiums.

The new state law, which changes partner benefits by redefining the word "dependent," was signed in September 2009 and will take effect on Oct. 1. The new plans will kick in on that day, too. A dependent will then be a "spouse under the laws of this state," which excludes unmarried domestic partners.

The university wanted to cover both gay and heterosexual relationships because "in order for us to be competitive, to be able to attract talented people, we need to be able to offer benefits that other employers are

offering," said Allison Vaillancourt, UA vice president for human resources.

The city of Tucson, Pima County and other major employers offer benefits for domestic partners.

Liz Sawyer, a UA staff member in the English department, called the new plans wonderful. Sawyer is a spokeswoman for OUTReach, a campus group that has lobbied for domestic-partner benefits at the UA for many years. "It's really nice to know that even though the state is not committed to equality, our university is. This administration has been so supportive of the LGTB (lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual) community. We're just all breathing a huge sigh of relief," she said.

About 20 people left the university over frustration with the new law and in some cases, job offers were rejected or reconsidered, according to Vaillancourt. At the time the law change was announced, the state coverage applied to 40 same-sex partners and 130 opposite-sex partners of university employees.

Obama Extends Benefits For Partners Of G/L Federal Workers

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The White House has announced that President Barack Obama had signed an executive order extending benefits for partners of gay federal workers, reported On Top Magazine.

"I am proud to announce that earlier today, I signed a Memorandum that requires Executive agencies to take immediate action to extend to the same-sex domestic partners of Federal employees a number of meaningful benefits, from family assistance services to hardship transfers to relocation expenses," Obama said in a statement.

The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay rights advocate, said the move was a "positive step," but added that it also serves as a reminder of the inequality that exists. "All employees should be treated equally and without discrimination, whether they are straight or LGBT [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender] and this is certainly a positive step in that direction," Joe Solmonese, president of the group, said.

The new order goes beyond what the president ordered last June, but isn't likely to mollify gay activists because the partners of gay and lesbian federal employees remain blocked from access to primary health insurance and pension benefits.

Full benefits cannot be extended to gay federal employees because of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), the 1996 law that defines marriage as a heterosexual union for the federal government. A bill introduced by New York Congressman Jerrold Nadler that would repeal the law has gained little traction.

"The limitations of these new benefits however serve as a glaring reminder that the Defense of Marriage Act [DOMA] ultimately stands in the way of providing true equality to LGBT Americans," Solmonese said.

Both houses of Congress, however, are preparing to vote on a bill that would bridge the gap.

Openly lesbian Wisconsin Representative Tammy Baldwin's Domestic Partnership Benefits & Obligations Act (DPBO) would carve out an exception to the law. The legislation cleared key committees in both houses of congress late last year.

In announcing the new benefits, Obama reiterated his support for DPBO: "This legislation, championed

by Senators Joe Lieberman and Susan Collins and Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, would extend to the same-sex domestic partners of Federal employees the full range of benefits currently being enjoyed by Federal employees' opposite-sex spouses. I look forward to signing it into law."

Solmonese cheered the president's renewed call for passage of the bill, adding that the federal government needed to catch up to a majority of Fortune 500 companies which already offer such benefits.

Pride Parade In SLC Draws Throng

SALT LAKE CITY (Observer Update) - The Pride Parade boisterously filled the heart of Salt Lake City for what organizers believe will be another record year in the event celebrating Utah's diversity, reported the Salt Lake Tribune.

Though focused on the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, Utah's second-largest parade drew thousands of friends and family who came out for the weekend-long Utah Pride Festival to enjoy the entertainment and camaraderie.

"Everybody's being themselves, and that doesn't happen all the time," said Rebecca Robert, who drove from Logan to watch the parade and support her friend Kristin, a lesbian. "It's a great thing to do. Everybody deserves the right to be who they are."

Parade watchers clapped, danced and hooted on the sidelines at the usual floats - with political candidates, banner-carrying spirit teams, rousing musical acts and horse-drawn carriages - as well as lots of people dressed in the LGBT community's emblematic rainbow colors and more than a few marchers dressed in drag.

Warm, sunny skies infused the crowd with happy energy. The celebration's headliners included comedian Sandra Bernhard, singer Martha Wash and the gay dance company, the D.C. Cowboys. A man dressed as the fictional Mormon housewife character, Sister Dottie S. Dixon, stepped up to be grand marshal for the parade. The theme of the Pride Festival was "Our History; Our Future," partly in recognition of the 40th anniversary of the first gay-pride parade in New York.

UPDATE

H2O - Kicking Off Pride 2010

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Come kick off Pride Week 2010 in Tucson on June 19 and get WET at H2O located at the Radisson Suites at 6555 E. Speedway. Entertainers include singer/songwriter Eric Himan along with Tucson's own Namoli Brennet!

Food & beverages will be provided, cash bar with drink discounts all day. Swim and enjoy episodes of Absolutely Fabulous with Patsy & Edina on the big screen. Room rates start at only \$69 for a 2 bedroom suite!

Tickets are \$15.00 in advance or \$20.00 at the Door and will be available at tucsonpride.org. For more information, contact David at Tucson Pride, 520-622-3200.

Senior Pride Senior Prom June 12

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Late Bloomers and friends of any age are invited to Senior Pride's Senior Prom, Saturday, June 12, 4 to 9:30 p.m., Metropolitan Community Church, 3269 N. Mountain Ave. just north of Fort Lowell.

Couples and singles are welcome. Unlike the proms you may remember from your high school days, this prom is not formal – just come as you are.

Dance to appropriate music and partake of light refreshments. Meet up with old friends and make new ones. As always, donations to Wingspan (wingspan.org) will be gratefully accepted. If you need transportation or can provide it, please call 520-888-6673. For more information, contact Linda Thomas, 520-624-1779.

Man2Man Seminars Up coming

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Attend a Free Weekend retreat, June 26-27, 8:30 to 5 p.m. at SAAF, 365 S. Euclid, for Gay, Bisexual, and Questioning Men, and receive a \$75 gift

card and other incentives! You are invited to attend a two-day seminar providing education on sexuality and intimacy with men. All men who have sex with men or are attracted to men, and are 18 or older are invited.

Seminar Goals and Topics: Learning about healthy sexuality; Sexuality across the life span; Understanding effects of fear, violence and abuse; Sexual identity formation; Developing assertiveness and empowerment; Male intimacy and relationships; Breaking isolation and developing networks; Bisexuality and sexual diversity; Being sexual in the age of HIV/AIDS and, sexual functioning.

Continental Breakfast and Lunch Provided both days! All participants will receive a \$75 gift card and other incentives! For more information visit azman2man.org, or contact Cesar at 520-628-7223, cegurrola@saaf.org.

Paula Aboud House Party June 19



TUCSON (Observer Update) - Come meet Tucson's LGBT State Senator, Paula Aboud, Saturday, June 19.

From 5 to 6:30 p.m., at 5153 E. Circulo Las Cabanas, Paula will be discussing the issues of concern, a review of this last Legislative Session and answering your questions.

Please RSVP, by June 12, by calling Elaine Clark (520) 514-7129

An Evening With Sonia Sanchez June 16



TUCSON (Observer Update) - Spend an evening, Wednesday, June 16, 5:30 p.m., at the Dunbar School Auditorium, 325 W. Second St. (ASL interpreter will be provided) with renowned poet Sonia Sanchez as she reads from her works and discusses her poetry at the 12th Annual Author Presentation of the Pima County Public Library's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Services Committee.

Ms. Sanchez will read from her book, *Does Your House Have Lions?*, a book-length poem memorializing the life and death of her brother, who died from an AIDS-related illness. Arizona Public Media's Laura Markowitz will interview Ms. Sanchez, who will take questions from the audience after the interview. Ms. Sanchez will remain to sign her books following the presentation. Her books will be available for sale before and after the event.

Sonia Sanchez is a poet, playwright, mother, activist, professor, and international lecturer on black culture and literature, women's liberation, peace and racial justice. She is most often associated with the Black Arts Movement. The annual GLBT author event is made possible through generous funding from the Friends of the Pima County Public Library.

Utah City Passes Anti-Discrimination Ordinance

WEST VALLEY CITY (Observer Update) - The West Valley City Council has approved an anti-discrimination ordinance to protect gay and transgender residents from discrimination in housing and employment matters, reported the AP on ABC 4 in Salt Lake City. The council voted 5-1 in favor of the ordinance on Tuesday. No one spoke publicly against it.

The measure is similar to ordinances passed in several other places, including Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Park City and Logan. Others also are considering ordinances. West Valley City Mayor Mike Winder will sign the ordinance on Tuesday at City Hall. Winder called passage of the measure a historic event for Utah's second-largest city.

Councilman Russ Brooks voted against the ordinance, saying the city is just following Salt Lake City. Fines for landlords or employers found to violate the ordinance will be up to \$1,000.

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HUD Grantees Must Be LGBT Compliant

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced that it will now require grant applicants seeking HUD funding to comply with state and local antidiscrimination laws that protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals.

"We're using every avenue to shut the door against discrimination," HUD secretary Shaun Donovan said in a statement. "Today, we take an important step to insist that those who seek federal funding must demonstrate that they are meeting local and state civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity."

An estimated 20 states and the District of Columbia currently prohibit discriminating against people in housing on the basis of their sexual orientation, and 12 states plus the District of Columbia have the same prohibition on gender identity discrimination, according to a release from HUD.

HUD spokesperson Brian Sullivan said the department had "limited authority" as it specifically relates to LGBT people since cities and states do not have uniformed policies and no federal law protects LGBT people against discriminatory housing practices.

"We can't be making law, but we went as far as we could," he said.

Sullivan added that the adjustment was not a regulatory change but instead an administrative requirement. Traditionally, HUD has required all applicants for competitive grant funding to comply with all applicable federal fair housing and civil rights requirements including those expressed in Fair Housing Act; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The department has been taking a series of steps to make several aspects of housing fairer across the board for LGBT people. In addition to the notice published today, HUD intends to propose new regulations that will clarify that the term "family," as used to describe eligible beneficiaries of HUD's programs, includes otherwise eligible LGBT individuals and couples. Sullivan said HUD was "in the process of developing" this new rule but he declined to estimate when the change might be completed. The department's proposed regulations will clarify family status to ensure that its core housing programs are available to all families, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Authorities at the Federal Housing Administration also intend to instruct lenders that FHA-insured mortgage loans must be based on the creditworthiness

Pride Parade In Salt Lake City

Continued from Page One



Pride Center spokesman Michael Westley declined to estimate the crowd's size, but noted revenues and attendance seemed to be up from last year's record 20,000 attendees. "Yesterday was tremendous," he said at the festival grounds on Washington Square. "It exceeded our expectations by 100 percent." Westley credited a greater public acceptance of the LGBT community

as a key factor in the annual event's growing popularity.

The parade had nearly 90 floats. Afterward, about 120 vendors tended booths on the festival grounds to tout businesses, political candidates and causes, such as the gay-rights advocacy group Equality Utah.

of borrowers and not on unrelated factors or characteristics such as sexual orientation or gender identity.

Finally, HUD will commission the first national study of discrimination against LGBT people in the rental and sale of housing. The department is currently seeking online public comment from interested parties in how it might design this new study. Sullivan said the study itself would be "groundbreaking" but that they did not yet know how the information would be utilized once it's collected.

"We are very intent on building a body of evidence and seeing where that leads us," he said.

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"So tell me, America, how do I introduce Joyce?" I posed that question back in May 1992 in the first column I ever wrote. That debut was an earthshaking breakthrough – a nationally syndicated, weekly column in mainstream newspapers about life from a gay perspective.

Over the next 18 years – and about 900 columns – I introduced my readers, mostly heterosexuals, to a gay couple – Joyce and me – and countless other wonderful people we met along our journalistic adventure.

One was 87-year-old Christine Burton, creator of Golden Threads, a pen pal group for older lesbians. When I asked her about dating a mere 58-year-old, she laughed: "If you're going to blame me for robbing the cradle, I'm going to say, 'What do you want me to do? Rob the grave? Everyone my age is dead.'"

Another was a mom who'd embraced her gay adult child with the help of P-FLAG and sported a button that read, "I'd rather have a bigot think I'm a lesbian than a lesbian think I'm a bigot."

Gay readers told me about coming out – and its rewards. Hampton H. Stennis, who took President George W. Bush's war on gay marriage very personally, shared his "Big Gay Letter," which he sent as a coming-out email full of fury, wit and pain to more than 120 relatives and friends.

Heterosexual readers were

A Very Gay Time

game, too. One of my favorites was Harry Guest, who at 80 started sparring with me. "Remember the agenda; the purpose is to straighten out us straights. ... I don't know why I am hetero except it seems perfectly natural, and I wouldn't have it any other way. You have to teach me that you feel the same way."

Others were angry to find a lesbian columnist in their hometown paper: "How dare you make your life seem interesting and worthwhile."

Since my column began 18 years ago, so much has changed legally, politically and socially for those of us who're gay: Then, presidential candidate Bill Clinton was quietly saying gays should be allowed in the military; last week, the full House and the Senate Armed Services Committee voted to repeal the ban on gays serving openly.

Then, state legislators and judges routinely pointed to sodomy laws in denying basic rights; now, thanks to the Supreme Court, no such taint of criminality shadows gay Americans.

And of course, then, the question of how to introduce Joyce had no easy answer. Readers offered plenty of ideas, from "partner in perversity" to "lovemate." In 2001, the Netherlands started the gay-marriage snowball rolling. We wed in Canada two years later. So, now the answer is "spouse."

What hasn't changed is the importance of being out. Poll after poll shows that people who know gay people are far more likely to support equality. That's the community service reward of coming out.

Other rewards are personal. I once wrote about our kitchen's "travel wall," which is covered with vacation photos of Joyce and me. A reader responded with a heart-breaking confession: She and her partner of two decades were so closeted they had no pictures of themselves together. None.

Mixing shame and fear inside a closet poisons individuals and couples. If you're stuck there, seek coaching from joyfully, openly gay couples. Beyond that, as Betty Berzon, author of "Permanent Partners," so wisely urged, pool your money, work as a team and assume permanence.

Now, as I write my last column, Joyce and I are preparing for our newest adventure: Thanks to the Neiman journalism fellowship I've won, we're moving to Massachusetts for a year. Imagine living where your marriage is recognized. We're definitely game. This happily married gay couple leaves you with a few words we've tried to live by ever since 1992: Don't let fear choose your path.

(Deb Price of The Detroit News wrote the first nationally syndicated column on gay issues, and which this is reprinted from.)

GLAAD Group Goes After Bill O'Reilly For Terrorist Suggestion

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Calling a The O'Reilly Factor segment on a gay McDonald's ad "insulting and irresponsible," the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) issued a call to action Thursday against Bill O'Reilly and Fox News, reported On Top Magazine.

In the segment, O'Reilly linked being gay to terrorism while discussing with Fox News anchor Jane Skinner a gay-inclusive McDonald's ad campaign running in France. "Instead of evaluating the commercial in a fair manner, O'Reilly used the occasion to defame the LGBT community, suggesting that McDonald's might begin marketing to terrorists simply because the company produced a gay-friendly television commercial," GLAAD said.

The campaign titled Come As You Are (Venez Comme Vous Etes) includes a gay television ad which suggests a teenager is about to come out gay to his father over a meal at McDonald's.

In the ad, the son sits in a booth while looking at his class photo when his cellphone rings. "I was just thinking about you," he says. "I was just looking at our class picture." "I miss you too," he adds

before hanging up.

The son is joined by his father, who comments on the class photo: "Too bad your class is all boys, you could get all the girls." The son smiles thoughtfully at his father, then, as the camera pulls away, the pair begin to converse.

O'Reilly hounded Skinner about whether the ad made her hungry for McDonald's. She eventually answered that she was always hungry for McDonald's.

The campaign is "part of an overreaching campaign called Come As You Are," Skinner explained. "So they show people in different walks of life. This happens to be their gay-friendly ad."

"OK," O'Reilly responded. "Do they have an al-Qaeda ad, you know, come as you are? You know?"

In calling for the action alert, GLAAD said programs such as The O'Reilly Factor "have a responsibility to cover issues with a level of respect and civility."

"Bill O'Reilly failed to live up to that standard in making these defamatory remarks," the group added. "Fox News Channel is equally accountable

for allowing O'Reilly a platform for this insulting and irresponsible commentary."

A McDonald's spokesperson said the purpose of the campaign was to "show society the way it is today without judging."

"There's obviously no problem with homosexuality in France today," the spokesperson added. France, however, recognizes gay and lesbian couples with a union similar to a domestic partnership, not marriage, and does not permit gay adoption.



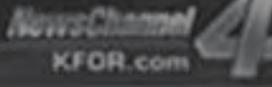
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A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

OK City Pol Likens Gays To Pedophiles



Brian Walters
OKC Councilman



OKALHOMA CITY (Observer Update) - One of Oklahoma City's council members voted against issuing a special event permit for the upcoming gay pride celebration because it runs counter to his Christian beliefs, advocate.com reported.

"I don't want my vote to be construed as support, because I really don't support that, the same way that I wouldn't support a group of, say, pedophiles who wanted to assemble," council member Brian Walters said, according to Oklahoma City's Journal Record. "I would not vote yes on that either, [or] men who beat up their wives. Anything like that."

Walters was the only council member to vote against the permit. Oklahoma City Pride is scheduled for June 25-27.

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'Golden Girl' Rue McClanahan Dies

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Rue McClanahan, the Emmy-winning actress who brought the sexually liberated Southern belle Blanche Devereaux to life on the hit TV series "The Golden Girls," has died. She was 76, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Her manager Barbara Lawrence said McClanahan died Thursday (June 3) at 1 a.m. of a stroke.

She had undergone treatment for breast cancer in 1997 and later lectured to cancer support groups on "aging gracefully." In 2009, she had heart bypass surgery.

McClanahan had an active career in off-Broadway and regional stages in the 1960s before she was tapped for TV in the 1970s for the key best-friend character on the hit series "Maude," starring Beatrice Arthur. After that series ended in 1978, McClanahan landed the role as Aunt Fran on "Mama's Family" in 1983.

But her most loved role came in 1985 when she co-starred with Arthur, Betty White and Estelle Getty in "The Golden Girls," a runaway hit that broke the sitcom mold by focusing on the foibles of four aging - and frequently eccentric - women living together in Miami.

"Golden Girls" aimed to show "that when people mature, they add layers," she told The New York Times in 1985. "They don't turn into other creatures. The truth is we all still have our child, our adolescent, and your young woman living in us."

Blanche, who called her father "Big Daddy," was a frequent target of roommates Dorothy, Rose and the outspoken Sophia (Getty), who would fire off zingers at Blanche such as, "Your life's an open blouse."

McClanahan snagged an Emmy for her work on the show in 1987. In an Associated Press interview that year, McClanahan said Blanche was unlike any other role she had ever played.

"Probably the closest I've ever done was Blanche DuBois in 'A Streetcar Named Desire' at the Pasadena Playhouse," she said. "I think, too, that's where the name came from, although my character is not a drinker and not crazy."

Her Blanche Devereaux, she said, "is in love with life and she loves men. I think she has an attitude toward women that's competitive. She is friends with Dorothy and Rose, but if she has enough provocation she becomes competitive with them. I think basically she's insecure. It's the other side of the Don Juan syndrome."

After "The Golden Girls" was canceled in 1992, McClanahan, White and Getty reprised their roles in a short-lived spinoff, "Golden Palace."

McClanahan continued work-

ing in television, on stage and in film, appearing in the Jack Lemmon-Walter Matthau vehicle "Out to Sea" and as the biology teacher in "Starship Troopers."

She stepped in to portray Madame Morrible, the crafty headmistress, for a time in "Wicked," Broadway's long-running "Wizard of Oz" prequel.

In 2008, McClanahan appeared in the Logo comedy "Sordid Lives: The Series," playing the slightly addled, elderly mother of an institutionalized drag queen.

During production, McClanahan was recovering from 2007 surgery on her knee. It didn't stop her from filming a sex scene in which the bed broke, forcing her to hang on to a windowsill to avoid tumbling off.

McClanahan was born Eddi-Rue McClanahan in Healdton, Okla., to building contractor William McClanahan and his wife, Dreda Rheua-Nell, a beautician. She graduated with honors from the University of Tulsa with a degree in German and theater arts.

McClanahan's acting career began on the stage. According to a 1985 Los Angeles Times profile, she appeared at the Pasadena (Calif.) Playhouse, studied in New York with Uta Hagen and Harold Clurman, and worked in soaps and on the stage.

She won an Obie - the off-Broadway version of the Tony - in 1970 for "Who's Happy Now," playing the "other woman" in a family drama written by Oliver Hailey. She reprised the role in a 1975 television version; in a review, The New York Times described her character as "an irrepressible belle given to frequent bouts of 'wooziness' and occasional bursts of shrewdness."

She had appeared only sporadically on television until producer Norman Lear tapped her for a guest role on "All in the Family" in 1971.

She went from there to a regular role in the "All in the Family" spinoff "Maude," playing Vivian, the neighbor and best friend to Arthur in the starring role.

When Arthur died in April 2009, McClanahan recalled that she had felt constrained by "Golden Girls" during the later years of its run. "Bea liked to be the star of the show. She didn't really like to do that ensemble playing," McClanahan said.

McClanahan was married six times: Tom Bish, with whom she had a son, Mark Bish; actor Norman Hartweg; Peter D'Maio; Gus Fisher; and Tom Keel. She married husband Morrow Wilson on Christmas Day in 1997. She called her 2007 memoir "My First Five Husbands ... And the Ones Who Got Away."

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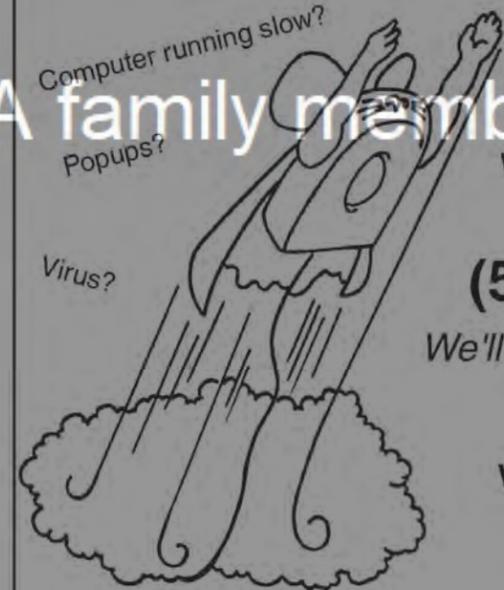
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Hatch: Gays Worship Politics Not Religion

Family Research Council Supports Death



Utah Senator Orrin Hatch

ST. GEORGE (Observer Update) - At a public event Tuesday, Utah senator Orrin Hatch said gays and lesbians have replaced religion with politics, reported advocate.com.

"Gays and lesbians don't pay tithing; their religion is politics," the Republican senator said to a crowd of 300 at Dixie State College in St. George, Utah. He added that his those in his party should also organize more like gay rights activists, union members, environmentalists, and personal injury lawyers do for the Democrats.

Harry Knox, the religion and faith program director at the Human Rights Campaign, condemned Hatch's words. "Senator Hatch is certainly right that many of his fellow Republicans could learn a lot from LGBT people's dedication to equality," he said in a statement Thursday. "But there is no denying that there are millions of LGBT Americans who every day give their time, talent, and money to local churches, synagogues, and temples all over the country. LGBT religious leaders are often the very ones revitalizing moribund churches and institutions. These committed religious leaders are working to provide a loving alternative to the hopeless hatred people like Senator Hatch call sound doctrine."

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - The Family Research Council is a sponsor of murder, wrote James Withers, the contributing editor to the 365Gay.com blog.

That is not Friday morning hyperbole. Joe, at Joe.My.God, found out FRC walked the halls of Congress fighting a resolution that denounced Uganda's proposal to legally lynch gays. Two lobbyists were paid \$25,000 to lobby the Senate and the House. Apparently their work wasn't successful in the Senate because that body passed its resolution on April 13. However, it "remains languishing in the House almost four months after being referred to the Foreign Affairs Committee. Did the FRC's lobbying kill it?"

This support for state sanctioned murder should not surprise. Remember when Ugandan MP David Bahati said he had private support from American evangelicals? More than likely he meant these kooks. And who can forget FRC's Peter Sprigg? He wants gay sex to be a criminal offense and 'mos deported. Sprigg is the same "scholar" who said gay rape would increase if DADT was removed.

It wasn't like the organization had much credibility to begin with, but it will be fun to see how they dance around this. Oh, they will probably speak in reverent tones about their rights as citizens to participate in the process. Fair. However, any news organization that invites an FRC opinion and does not ask why it supports the death of Ugandan gays, is doing a disservice.

If the folk over at FRC had the courage of their convictions, like their kissing cousins at Westboro Baptist Church, they would embrace this revelation.



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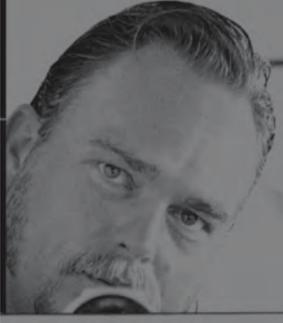
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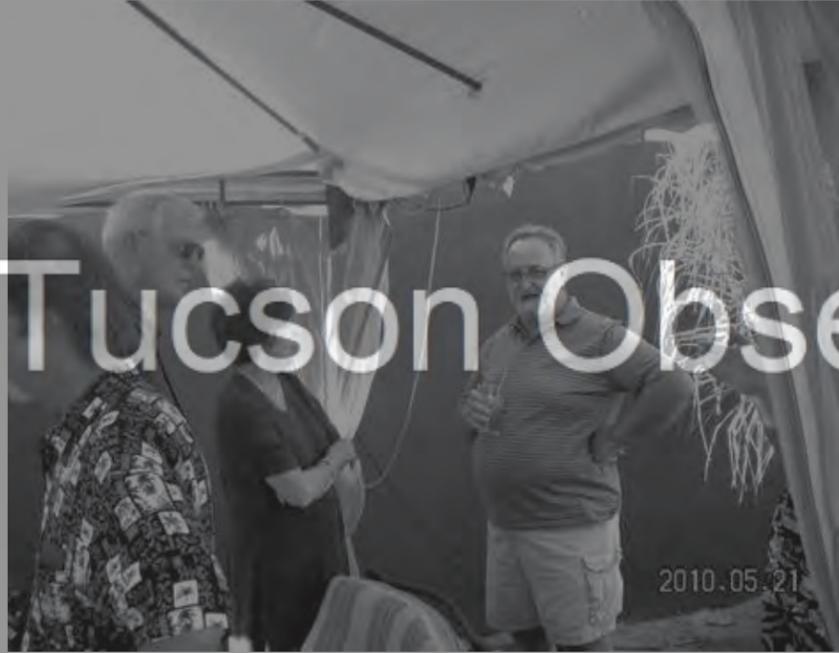
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At The Retirement Party for Charles At Woody's Recently

CHARLES IS THE PERSON WHO APPEARS IN MOST OF THESE PHOTOS - BUT REMEMBER HE HAD TO PUT IN MANY YEARS OF WORK TO GET TO THIS POINT. CONGRATULATIONS, CHARLES.



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Poet's Corner

CAPITOL PUNISHMENT

BY Ron Rose - Tucson

Off they go, in single file
 Aged men, who seldom smile
 Men in charge of making laws,
 Suffer now from 'Man-I-Pause'.
 Let young women run the show
 The guys already stole our dough
 A lobby here, a lobby there,
 These men had lots of cash to share,
 So, Harry Reid and Boeander too
 And all you "Man-I-Pausal" crew
 The jig is up, we know it's true
 Let's see what gifted women do.
 Change is good. I do confess
 You grumpy men have made a mess

Lady Gaga, Cybil Shepherd Highlight Gay Media Awards

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - Cybill Shepherd and Lee Daniels were honored for their gay advocacy Saturday night at the final installment of the 21st annual GLAAD Media Awards in San Francisco, reported On Top Magazine.

Shepherd, who played lesbian for three season on Showtime's groundbreaking drama The L Word, was given the Golden Gate Award, while openly gay Precious director Daniels took home the Davidson/Valentini Award. Wilson Cruz and Jai Rodriguez joined the show's host writer-comedian Bruce Vilanch on the stage.

Lady Gaga won in the Outstanding Music Artist category for her most recent album The Fame Monster. Chely Wright - the 39-year-old country music star who recently came out lesbian - performed for the crowd. Also performing was Australian recording artist Sam Sparro, who announced he is gay on the cover of

Australian gay glossy Attitude in 2008.

Ask Not, a documentary on the military's ban on open service, won in the Outstanding Documentary category, while The Stonewall Riots: 40 Years Later, a film that chronicles the gay rights movement, took home the Outstanding Digital Journalism prize.

Robert Hanson, president of Levi Strauss Americas, was given the San Francisco Local Hero Award for championing marriage equality in the business community.

The GLAAD Media Awards recognize excellence in 41 categories including newspaper content, syndicated columnists and comic books. Awards were rolled out in a series of ceremonies. ABC took home the most awards in television during a New York ceremony in March. During the award's second installment in Los Angeles, Director Tom Ford's film about a gay man's journey after the loss of his lover, A Single Man, won for outstanding film.

First Major Playwriting Award Named For Gay Couple

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - An annual \$150,000 prize has been established by the foundation of Tony-winning playwright-director Arthur Laurents and partner Tom Hatcher.

The Laurents/Hatcher Foundation Award will be given for an unproduced, full-length play of social relevance by an emerging American playwright. The prize includes a \$50,000 cash award for the selected playwright and a \$100,000 grant for production costs of the play's pre-

miere at a nonprofit theater. The foundation said it's the first major award for playwriting to be named in honor of a gay couple.

The 92-year-old Laurents wrote the books for "Gypsy" and "West Side Story." Hatcher was Laurents' partner of 52 years. The actor and real estate developer died in 2006. Submissions from invited applicants will be accepted June 15 to Sept. 15. The first award recipient will be notified March 15, 2011.

FedEx To Extend Partner Benefits To G/L Employees

MEMPHIS (Observer Update) - Shipping giant FedEx will begin offering health benefits to the partners of gay and lesbian workers, local Fox affiliate My Fox Memphis reported.

FedEx, which is headquartered in Memphis, announced the change last week but the policy won't take effect until January 1, 2012. "It's a

huge deal," Will Batts, executive director of Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, told the network.

Gay employees in California have received similar benefits from the company since lawmakers approved an expansion of a domestic partnership law in 2003. The lopsided policy was responsible for downgrades in



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FedEx's rank as a top employer by gay rights groups. In 2007, the company was dropped from Diversity Inc.'s annual Top 50 Companies for Diversity list.

Batts says the change will help the company attract and retain a more diverse workforce, a boost for the city

of Memphis. "One of the things we've learned about cities is that the more diverse they are the more they attract creative people, the more they attract people that are innovative and motivated to improve their communities," he said. The change comes at the request of employees.

Missing Lesbian Mom In El Salvador?



SAN SALVADOR (Observer Update) - A woman who has gone missing with her 8-year-old daughter has reportedly fled the United States, just as the custody battle between her and her former lesbian partner advances, reported advocate.com.

Lisa Miller and her biological daughter, Isabella Miller-Jenkins, are believed to be in El Salvador, according to the Associated Press. In January, Miller failed to appear in court for a mandated custody swap. She and her daughter are believed to have been in El Salvador since September.

Janet Jenkins, Miller's former partner, was granted custody by a judge after Miller and her daughter disappeared. Her attorney, Sarah Star, says Miller and Isabella hopped the border into Juarez, Mexico, and then flew to San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador.

DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

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

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm \$2 Well or Domestic Beer. Karaoke on the Patio 4-8:30pm. Burger BBQ 5-8pm + \$1 pint draft. 9pm-close Karaoke inside with Troy & \$1.50 Well or Domestic Beer, \$2.50 Call or Premium Beer. DJ Hurricane on the Patio.

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

MONDAY

THE BIZ - Closed for employee training.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 p.m. \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Bucket o' Beer - \$10 Domestic, \$12 Imports and microbrews (4 beers to a bucket, for 2 or more people, Some brands excluded).

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm \$2 Well or Domestic Beer. 8pm-close \$5 Scratch Long Island Varieties. 9pm-close DJ Hurricane with "All Request Music".

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

TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-8 and Game Night all night long. Play Wii, beer pong and pool with the staff.

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic Beer. 8pm-close "2'sDay" - \$2 Well or Domestic Beer. DJ Q 9pm-close.

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

WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-8pm. Wild Wednesday 18+ Party with DJ White Shadow spinning the hottest Hip Hop, R&B and top 40 remix dance of today. 21+ NO COVER. 18+ \$8 Cover.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.75 Skyy cocktails, \$3.00 Domestic and Well. 1/2 price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour All Day \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitchers. Boyz Night - .75 for your favorite well drink or domestic draft beer for men 6-8pm. Karaoke with Anna at 8pm drink specials during karaoke \$1 Michelob Ultra or Bud Light..

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. "Diva-Licious" show w/Bunny FuFu. 11pm - -close "Reverse Happy Hour". DJ Q Inside & DJ Mike Lopez playing 80s music on the Patio.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am;. Happy Hour 11am-8pm excl. special events). 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..

THURSDAY

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

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

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. 10pm-close "Boyz Nite Out" w/ Bartenders in their underwear. DJ Hurricane spinning Top 40 & DJ Mike Lopez on the patio. \$1.75 Long Island, \$1.50 Tequila Shots, \$3 Skyy Cape Cods and \$4 Skyy Cosmos.

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

FRIDAY

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

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 Sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitcher. Shots shot specials 8-close.. Dance lessons with Lawrence at 7pm \$5 per person, Country Dancing 8:30 p.m. to close with DJ Pat.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. 9pm -close DJ Hurricane inside. 10pm-close DJ Mike Lopez with "I'm a Sexy Bitch Night" on the patio.

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

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am. Latin night with Latin Drag Show the 1st, 3rd and 4th Saturdays of the month. DJ Dmenace spinnin' the best Cumbias, Salsa & Merengue. \$3 pitchers and \$2 Tequila shotz all night long!

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. 5-8pm Karaoke on the patio \$1Draft Pints. 9pm "Saturday Starrlett's" w/Bunny FuFu & Jane Starr. After the show, DJ Q spinning inside & 10pm-close, DJ Mike Lopez with the "Party on the Patio".

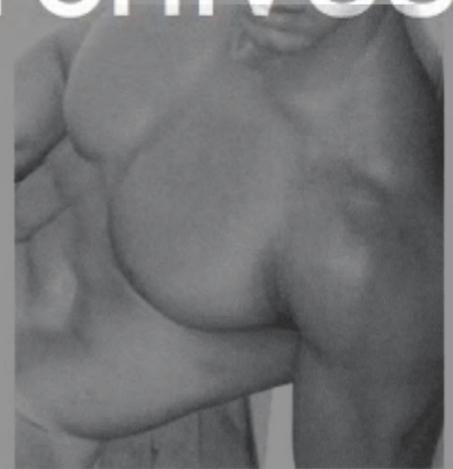
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Report: Most Hospitals Lack LGBT Non-Discrimination Policies

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - President Barack Obama's April memorandum ordering hospitals to ensure visitation rights for same-sex partners will radically change how the vast majority of U.S. healthcare institutions currently treat gay and lesbian patients, a new study finds, reported advocate.com.

According to a report released Monday by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, 93% of health care facilities surveyed currently lack comprehensive nondiscrimination policies for LGBT patients. Forty-two percent of hospitals do not include sexual orientation in patient's bill of rights language.

Such disparity can lead to disastrous consequences, as was the high-profile case of Lisa Pond, who died in 2007 of a brain aneurysm at a Miami hospital while vacationing with her partner of 21 years, Janice Langbehn, and their adopted children.

"I was promised I'd be able to see her, but in the ensuing five to six hours, no one came to get me, no one offered to bring me back to see her," Langbehn said at a Monday press conference in San Francisco. "It's not a gay right to hold your partner's hand when they're dying. It's a human right."

Langbehn sued Jackson Memorial Hospital after officials barred her and the couple's children from visiting Pond as she lay dying in a trauma unit.

A federal judge dismissed the suit in September, ruling, "Decisions as to visitation must be left to the medical personnel in charge of the patient, without second-guessing by juries and courts."

Obama's April memo directed Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius to issue new rules within 180 days for LGBT patients and their families at any facility receiving government funding through Medicare and Medicaid - the vast majority of health care facilities in the United States.

The new rules should "respect the rights of patients to designate visitors," according to the memo, and bar discrimination on the basis of gender identity as well as sexual orientation. Appropriate guidelines would also respect advance direc-

tives, including powers of attorney, for patients with same-sex partners.

The Joint Commission, an independent health care accreditation group, also recently announced that it would accredit health care facilities based on nondiscrimination policies that include LGBT patients and their families. The updated policy is scheduled to go into effect before January 1, 2011.

"They are the gold standard when it comes to accreditation," said HRC vice president of communications and marketing Fred Sainz. "Without accreditation, insurance companies won't work with you. You can't get government money. Various finance agencies won't work with you. It's necessary, for hospitals to function, to become Joint Commission-accredited."

Together, the Joint Commission standards and the White House directive "mean that even in states like Mississippi that don't have nondiscrimination laws, hospitals will be the safe havens," Sainz said.

The HRC's Healthcare Equality Index analyzed 178 health care facilities nationwide on criteria including visitation rights for same-sex partners, staff diversity training, and employment nondiscrimination rules for LGBT staff.

Eleven health care facilities, including Rush University Medical Center in Chicago and Beth Israel Medical Center in New York, received perfect scores based on index criteria. Kaiser Permanente, which operates 36 hospitals nationwide, was the only health care network to receive a perfect score.

Because many states prohibit marriage equality, civil unions, or domestic partnership rights for same-sex couples, Ellen Leonard, vice president for health plans and hospital operations at Kaiser, said that the organization's explicit nondiscrimination policy means that a person who purports to be the partner of a patient and requests visitation will be admitted to do so. "We don't ask for [documented] proof, it's not necessary for visitation rights," Leonard said.

Glee, Maddow Nominated For Television Critics Awards

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Rachel Maddow's eponymous news show on MSNBC has been nominated for a Television Critics Association award for the second year in a row, advocate.com reported.

The show is up against 30 for 30 on ESPN, America: The Story of Us on the History Channel, Life on the Discovery Channel, and The Daily Show on Comedy Central in the Outstanding Achievement in News and Information category.

Comedic actress Jane Lynch is also up for recognition in the Individual Achievement in Comedy category for her role as Sue Sylvester on Glee. The hit Fox show is nominated in three other categories, including Program of the Year.



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