

Human Rights Campaign To Remove Target And Best Buy From Its Buyer's Guide In Response To Political Donations



NEW YORK (Observer Update) - The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) just sent over this statement in response to questions raised by radio host Michelangelo Signorile in an interview with HRC's Vice President of Communications & Marketing Fred Sainz about the Target boycott.

In the interview, Signorile noted that HRC, despite Target's refusal to "make it right" with the LGBT community regarding its donations to anti-gay PAC MN Forward, continued to recommend that LGBT consumers shop at Target in its buyer's guide, *towleroad.com* reported. That is now changing, according to HRC's Press Secretary Michael Cole:

The recent political contributions by Target and Best Buy are cause for reflection on the criteria used for future editions of the Corporate Equality Index (CEI). While considering all of this, it's important to keep in mind that the CEI has made a tremendous impact in the real lives of LGBT people in large part because it has been a predictable and transparent roadmap for companies to institute fair workplace policies. Instead of making capricious decisions about scoring criteria, we believe that a responsible consideration of all of the facts is the smartest way to move forward.

Already complicated, the Citizens United decision has made campaign finance issues even more complex. HRC is thoughtfully studying the many ramifications of political giving by companies in this new reality.

The CEI, upon which the Buyer's Guide is based, was completed in June 2009. Under that set of criteria,

both Target and Best Buy scored 100 percent. The Buyer's Guide available on our website was released in November 2009 and is representative of the information known to us at the time. Because we understand the impact of leaving Target and Best Buy on the various products associated with the Buyer's Guide, both companies will soon be removed from it.

HRC will not encourage people to shop at either store and believes that consumers should make their own decisions after careful consideration of all of the information available to them.

Poll: Support For Marriage Equality Almost 50%

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - It may not be news that more and more states are seeing an increasing in acceptance of marriage equality, but The New York Times has published a statistical-laden piece describing the shift in some of those states. One study puts the support in at least 45% and growing.

According to our research, as recently as 2004, same-sex marriage did not have majority support in any state. By 2008, three states had crossed the 50 percent line.

Today, 17 states are over that line (more if you consider the CNN estimate correct that just over 50 percent of the country supports gay marriage).

In 2008, the year Proposition 8 was approved, just under half of

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Name Changing For Gay Couples Not A Straight Line

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - In October 2008, racing against California's gay marriage ban, Chloe and Frankie Frankeny wed legally in San Francisco with one chore already done: Chloe had taken her wife's name two years before.

"It was the only way we had to fit into a mainstream role that was understandable to anybody," said Chloe, managing editor of a fashion website. "When I told my father I was taking Frankie's name he was sort of blown away because I definitely consider myself a feminist."

With a battle over the state's ban on gay marriage possibly headed to the U.S. Supreme Court, it's likely more same-sex couples will do the same. For the Frankenys, the name switch couldn't magically grant all the marriage benefits denied same-sex couples when compared to one man, one wife, but it was one more way to express their union. It's a symbol rendered even stronger now that legal gay marriages are on hold in California, and for partners who've never had the option.

Logistically, a name-change for gay couples isn't always as simple as trotting out a marriage certificate, the proof most required in heterosexual marriage. Emotionally, the journey is about love, commitment - and a way to ease anxiety over being misunderstood as non-relatives in emergencies or considered less-than as parents.

Kirsten Palladino, who runs the online gay wedding 'zine *Equally Wed*, shed Ott for the surname of her partner, Maria, last year without benefit of a state-sanctioned union in Georgia. She's seeing more couples go to court for name changes, settling on hyphenation or one partner's surname over the other.

"We have grown stronger and are speaking out for ourselves in this way," said Palladino, 32. "There's nothing stopping us from taking each other's names, even if we can't get a marriage certificate."

After a five-year courtship, the Palladinos had a wedding at an antebellum mansion in Decatur, Ga. Kirsten became a Palladino after running a newspaper announcement of her intentions once a week for four weeks and appearing before a judge, just as people going through a formal name change for reasons other than marriage must do.

"I was nervous. I didn't know how the judge would feel, but he was great. Personally, I had to deal with

some identity issues after, but becoming a family unit with my wife trumped anything else for me," she said.

College sweethearts Kathryn and Heather Kraft of Newton, Mass., just celebrated 12 years together and have a new baby. They had a church wedding five years ago in white gowns with 10 bridesmaids after obtaining a marriage license under their state's gay marriage law.

Whose name did they choose? Kathryn said her Kraft over Heather's Cole "because we're very close to my family and wanted to add to that family in a noticeable way." They had considered combining names into a new one that "represented both of our ancestry, but in the end we're very traditional people." Cole is now a middle name for the entire family, including baby Esther.

Making the switch with a legal marriage certificate was no trouble for Heather, until she tried to get a U.S. passport ahead of a trip to Europe. "We were shocked when Heather's application was denied," said her 32-year-old partner, a family therapist. "The passport office would not recognize our marriage certificate as proof and insisted that she had to go in front of a judge to have a court-ordered name change."

After six months, she was issued a "known as" passport identifying her by both names. "It's a small thing that isn't noticeable when you look at her passport, but the process was long and an unnecessary reminder that things aren't exactly equal," Kathryn said.

Jason and Anthony Cline committed to each other in 2001 during a hotel ceremony in their native Indiana, where gay marriage is outlawed. They thought about heading to a state where their union would be legal but decided not to bother knowing they'd return home to suburban Indianapolis without that recognition.

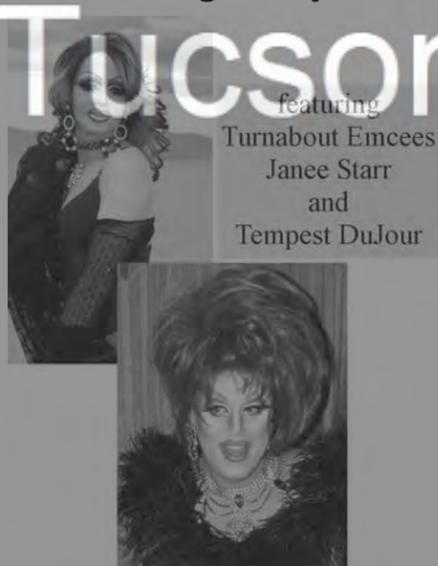
Jason, 33, legally changed his name, going through a newspaper notification process and enduring questions from a judge as Palladino did.

"The process seemed cold but it helped prove our relationship to our friends and family that maybe weren't as advanced in their thinking on the topic. It helped solidify our relationship to the people that we knew and to the world," he said. "It starts a conversation. It tells a story."

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UPDATE

One Of Tucson's Biggest Shows Of The Year, Sunday, Sept. 5



featuring Turnabout Emcees Janee Starr and Tempest DuJour

TUCSON (Observer Update) - "Turnabout for TIHAN" is an annual show put on by Tucson's GLBT clubs and their bar staff. The staff request donations from their friends and customers in order to do a "turn-about" from male to female (or vice versa) and put on a fabulous show to benefit the work of TIHAN, the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (www.tihan.org).

Get ready for the glitz and glamour, the pumps and passion for this year's "Turnabout for TIHAN" benefit show! It's one of the biggest drag shows of the year, and takes place on Sunday, September 5 at the Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park (445 South Alvernon Way, Tucson, Arizona). The doors open at 5:00 pm, and the show starts at 6:00 pm. Advance tickets are only \$10.00 per person, or \$100 for a table of 10. Tickets at the door will cost \$15.00 each (if available). The evening also features a raffle with some great prizes.

Join us for Turnabout, featuring emcees Janee Starr and Tempest DuJour, along with your favorite bar staff in drag from your favorite participating bars:

Tickets are on sale now

through the TIHAN office (credit card orders can be taken - 299-6647), or at participating bars. For more information about the event, or to volunteer, contact Scott Blades at 299-6647 or scott@tihan.org.

Turnabout Mardi Gras Mask Contest

Get into the spirit of the Mardi Gras celebration by creating your very own mask and wear it to Turnabout Benefit Show. A \$50 gift certificate is the grand prize for the best Mardi Gras Mask, and they'll also offer 2nd and 3rd place prizes as well.

There is no entry fee - all you have to do is purchase a ticket to the show and register for the contest at the raffle table by 7:00 p.m. on the night of the show. A panel of three judges will select three finalists, based on these categories - Presentation (beauty/creativity), Workmanship (design/detail), and Theme (represents Mardi Gras). Then the Turnabout audience will decide the grand prize winner for best Mardi Gras mask.

Primary Election August 24

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Voters in Arizona will go to the polls and decide who their party's nominees for various political offices from the local to the federal level will be for the November 2 general election.

With the elections to be officially decided with the final canvass of ballots taking up to seven days, after presstime, the Observer will have details in next week's edition.

LGBT Bowling League Starting Sept. 8

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The first meeting will take place Wednesday, September 8, 6 p.m., at Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 W. Miracle Mile.

Teams will consist of two to three people. There is the rules meeting with bowling to follow.

For more information, call Dan (520), 404-3591, Marge (520) 481-7151 or Franc (520) 578-9393.

Dining With Divas To Dig In Shortly

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - There's only 12 days to go until the 2nd edition of Dining with the Divas at My Florist Cafe and tickets are selling fast.

In April, 230 friends joined us for the inaugural brunch, so please don't miss this exciting dining experience on August 29th at one of our favorite restaurants. There's 2 seatings at 11am and 1:30pm and for only \$33 per person (excluding gratuity) you'll get: Great food with unlimited Mimosas and Bloody Marys, talented and hilarious entertainment.

The opportunity to help a local nonprofit that serves 200+ LGBTQ youth and young adults every month. Please visit our events website at www.1n10events.com and purchase your tickets today!

Creep Show Sept. 17

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Boys R Us presents Creep Show. Delight in the bizarre at the Temple of Music and Art's Cabaret Theater as we kick off the Halloween season.

Friday September 17th Late Night Show reception at 9 p.m., showtime at 10 p.m. \$12/20 VIP.

Saturday September 18th Matinee Show reception at 5pm, showtime 6pm \$10; Late Night Show reception at 9pm, showtime at 10pm \$12/20 VIP.

Be part of the mystery, come to the reception in costume for \$2 off admission. 330 S. Scott ave. Tickets at the door. Limited admission, tucsondragkings.com for more info.

Poll: Support For Marriage Equality Almost 50%

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Californians supported same-sex marriage. Today, according to polls, more than half do. A similar shift has occurred in Maine, where same-sex marriage legislation was repealed by ballot measure in 2009.

In both New York and New Jersey, where state legislatures in the past have defeated proposals to allow same-sex marriage, a majority now support it.

And support for same-sex marriage has increased in all states, even in relatively conservative places like Wyoming and Kentucky. Only Utah is still below where national support stood in 1996.

Among the five states that currently allow same-sex marriage, Iowa is the outlier. It is the only one of those states where support falls below half, at 44 percent.

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tucsonobserver.com
It's More Than You Think.....

Name Changing For Gay Couples Not A Straight Line

Continued from Page One

Chloe Frankeny sees other practical outcomes to changing her name, including proof of family status in case of a medical crisis.

"With the same last name we could say we were sisters," she said. "We've all heard stories of partners kept apart in emergency rooms. That was a precaution we wanted to take."

From nearly 80 percent to 95 percent of heterosexual couples marrying for the first time legally adjust their names as the age of the average bride has risen to about 27 over the last 20 years, according to research. Professional identity before marriage motivates others - in same-sex and hetero couples alike - to keep their original names informally or incorporate them as middle names.

Elisa Hebert, 32, wasn't attached to her surname before she traveled with partner Megan from their home outside Denver, Colo., to Rehoboth, Mass., a plus since most of their friends and family are from New England. Back home, Elisa appeared in court to complete her legal name change before a judge managing a roomful of ticked-off parents and their kids hauled in for truancy. "I felt like a 12-year-old who was in trouble," she said.

Marni Kahn, a doctoral candidate in sociology in Atlanta, took partner Casey Brown's last name after a marriage ceremony that blended their Jewish and Southern Baptist roots. "It really did tie things up nicely,"

said Casey, a marketing analyst.

Actor and writer Marcos Mateo Ochoa, 29, of Los Angeles chose to hyphenate instead. He goes by Cermak-Ochoa after marrying partner Frank Cermak on Oct. 4, 2008, a union legally recognized in California with 18,000 other same-sex marriages there before voters approved Proposition 8 and ended the practice. He plans to make the name switch legal once the court case is resolved.

"We want to identify ourselves as being united, but with California being so flip-floppy on this, it's just a matter of when we go about the process," Ochoa said. "Is this going to be another obstacle, another hurdle for us to go through?"

'Dr. Laura Show' Ending. . . . Thank God

LOS ANGELES (Observer Update) - "Dr. Laura" Schlessinger, who had a radio show for over 30 years, will not renew the show's contract at the end of the year. She made the announcement on the Larry King Show, reports 365Gay.com.

"I want to regain my first amendment rights (of free speech). I want to be able to say what is on my mind, in my heart, what I think is helpful and useful without somebody getting angry," Schlessinger said. So

for 30 years the Doctor had a radio show. No government bureaucrat came in and killed her mike, or sent her to the gallows after something she said. And she's said outlandish stuff. Remember in 2000 when Dr. L. opined gays and lesbians were "biological errors"?

She has nine million listeners per week and not one was ever arrested, or fired from a gig, for tuning his/her dial to her words. Through it all she got paid well (no hate), however, she now whines how having a radio show abridged her speech rights. Like all "Constitutional scholars" she wants to spout her mind, but doesn't think it's right people respond to her loquacity. Hey Doctor: the beauty of the First Amendment is it covers everyone. From radio show hosts who say nigger 11 times, and bloggers who find such moderators slow and dense.

13 Arrested In San Diego Pro-Marriage Sit-In

SAN DIEGO (Observer Update) - Thirteen people were arrested during a pro-gay marriage sit-in outside the San Diego County Clerk's office, reported 10News.

Two gay couples went to the clerk's office for their scheduled appointments to get a marriage license, but when both couples were denied, the protest ensued, 365Gay.com reported. Clerk David Butler said he had to follow the court decision that extended the stay on Judge Vaughn Walker's ruling that Proposition 8 was unconstitutional.

Walker stayed his own decision, but said he would lift the stay on

August 18. Gay marriages would have once again been permitted in California, but the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals issued an emergency stay, maintaining the state's ban on same-sex marriage through Dec.

California clerks' offices were ready to issue licenses to same-sex couples on the 18th-they had planned to extend office hours so couples could marry right at 5 p.m., when the stay was scheduled to be lifted. Same-sex couples, like the two in San Diego, who made arrangements to obtain their marriage licenses, were rejected because of the Appeals Court's decision. At the San Diego sit-in, four protesters were taken into custody for blocking a door in the County Administration Building. The charges for the other nine protesters are unknown.

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COMMENTARY . . .

by John Corvino

Taking On The New Argument Against Gay Marriage

Ross Douthat's recent New York Times op-ed against marriage equality is notable for many things, not least its frank rejection of some standard bad arguments against same-sex marriage.

Douthat denies that marriage "has always been defined as the union of one man and one woman" and that the nuclear family "is the universal, time-tested path to forming families and raising children." "What we think of as 'traditional marriage,'" he rightly notes, "is not universal."

But Douthat's piece is also notable because he offers a relatively clear version of a less familiar anti-equality argument. Briefly, the argument is that heterosexual relationships differ in important ways from both gay relationships and lesbian relationships, and that stretching marriage to cover all three kinds of pairings (male-female, male-male, female-female) would dilute its purposes.

In Douthat's words, preserving lifelong heterosexual monogamy as unique and indispensable "ultimately requires some public acknowledgment that heterosexual unions and gay relationships are different: similar in emotional commitment, but distinct both in their challenges and their potential fruit."

To his credit, Douthat is not simply making the argument that "Straight people are really special and they need a special institution to honor

how special they are" (though at times he does seem oblivious to heterosexual privilege, and correspondingly, to the needs and interests of gays and lesbians). Rather, he's worried about the unique stakes of heterosexual relationships, especially that they make babies. In a follow-up post, he cites the celibate lesbian Catholic writer Eve Tushnet :

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

It's the combination of an obvious point with a blatant non-sequitur that makes this argument so specious.

The obvious point is that straight relationships, gay male relationships, and lesbian relationships each have distinct challenges. (They also share many of the same challenges, a fact that Douthat mostly ignores.)

And yes, among the unique challenges of heterosexual relationships is that they create babies. No surprise there.

The non-sequitur is his move from the reasonable premise about distinct challenges for heterosexuals, to the conclusion that extending marriage to gays and lesbians would render it unable to address those heterosexual challenges. Tushnet goes so far as to claim that we would no longer even be able to SAY that there are differences between heterosexual and homosexual relationships, much less maintain marriage in a way that addresses them.

What amazes me about this conclusion is not just its apparent ignorance of gay and lesbian relationships, and the significant ways in which our challenges—of commitment, care, childrearing, intimacy, security, and so on—overlap with those of our heterosexual neighbors.

What really amazes me is its apparent ignorance of the great diversity of HETEROSEXUAL relationships, with their "different dangers... different challenges, and...different rules."

To take just one example, consider a pair of elderly widowed heterosexuals who marry. Does anyone imagine that their challenges are exactly similar to those of young newlyweds? Does anyone presume that, by treating them as married, we lose the ability to acknowledge that the stakes are different for them (and for society) than they were in the case of their first marriages?

The fact is that we acknowledge a wide variety of relationships as marriages that are nevertheless "distinct both in their challenges and their potential fruit": some with children, some without; some involving young lovebirds; some involving mature companions; some domestic, some long-distance, and so on.

Gays and lesbians make up a relatively small minority of the population—smaller, certainly, than infertile and elderly heterosexuals. (Douthat notes that infertile and elderly heterosexuals grew up "as heterosexuals"—which is true, but irrelevant to the point that we can acknowledge their "distinct challenges" while still addressing the needs of the fertile.)

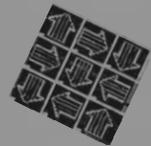
In order to make his position plausible, Douthat would need to show that the stakes are so radically different for gays or lesbians that any form of marriage that includes this small minority can no longer do the requisite work for (fertile) heterosexuals.

But at this crucial point Douthat's argument becomes hopelessly vague. He simply asserts that extending marriage to same-sex couples would weaken its ability to address the thick "interplay of fertility, reproductive impulses and gender differences in heterosexual relationships," but he never explains why or how this would happen.

This is not an argument: this is a panic.

(John Corvino, Ph.D. is an author, speaker, and philosophy professor at Wayne State University in Detroit. His column "The Gay Moralizer" appears at 365gay.com, from which this is reprinted.)

To learn more about John or see clips from his DVD, visit www.johncorvino.com.



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Judge Doubts Gay Marriage Ban's Backers Can Appeal

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - AP on 365Gay.com reports that the federal judge who overturned California's same-sex marriage ban has more bad news for the measure's sponsors: he not only is unwilling to keep gay couples from marrying beyond next Wednesday, he doubts the ban's backers have the right to challenge his ruling.

Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn R. Walker rejected a request to delay his decision striking down Proposition 8 from taking effect until high courts can take up an appeal lodged by its supporters. One of the reasons, the judge said, is he's not sure the proponents have the authority to appeal since they would not be affected by or responsible for implementing his ruling. By contrast, same-sex couples are being denied their constitutional rights every day they are prohibited from marrying, Walker said.

The ban's backers "point to harm resulting from a 'cloud of uncertainty' surrounding the validity of marriages performed after judgment is entered but before proponents' appeal is resolved," he said. "Proponents have not, however, argued that any of them seek to wed a same-sex spouse."

Walker gave opponents of same-sex marriage until Aug. 18 at 5 p.m. to get a ruling from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on whether gay marriages should start before the court considers their broader appeal. Their lawyers filed a request asking the 9th Circuit to intervene and block the weddings on an emergency basis.

They argued the appeals court should grant a stay of Walker's order requiring state officials to cease enforcing Proposition 8 "to avoid the confusion and irreparable injury that would flow from the creation of a class of purported same-sex marriages."

Depending on how the 9th Circuit rules, same-sex couples could begin tying the knot in California as early as next week or be put off while the appeal works its way through the court and potentially the U.S. Supreme Court as well.

California voters passed Proposition 8 as a state constitutional amendment in November 2008, five months after the California Supreme Court legalized same-sex unions and an estimated 18,000 same-sex couples already had married.

In refusing to suspend his ruling for more than a few days, Walker agreed with the lawyers who sued to strike down the ban that it's unclear if Proposition 8's sponsors have legal standing to appeal.

Although he allowed the coalition of religious and conservative groups that sponsored the measure to defend the lawsuit during the 13-day trial over which he presided, the judge said appellate courts have different rules for deciding when a party is eligible to challenge a lower court.

Based on his interpretation of those rules, it appears the ban's sponsors can only appeal his decision with the backing of either Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger or Attorney General Jerry Brown, Walker said. But that seems unlikely as both officials refused to defend Proposition 8 in Walker's court and said last week they see no reason why gay couples

should not be able to tie the knot now.

Walker also turned aside arguments that marriages performed now could be thrown into legal chaos if Proposition 8 is later upheld by an appeals court. He pointed to the 18,000 same-sex couples who married legally in the five months that gay marriage was legal in California as proof.

San Francisco Chief Deputy City Attorney Therese Stewart, who during the trial helped argue that Proposition 8 should be overturned, said that while it will not be up to Walker to decide the eligibility issue, "it's very realistic" that the 9th Circuit could reach the same conclusion.

"We allocate the decision-making authority over how to enforce and defend and prosecute the laws to the executive branch," Stewart said. "Do you want every Tom, Dick and Harry second-guessing what the attorney general does and challenging every ruling the attorney general chooses not to?"

The ban's backers addressed the potential for such a roadblock in their emergency stay request, saying California's strong citizen initiative law permits ballot measures proponents to defend their interests when state officials refuse to.

"We are confident we do have standing to seek the appellate review here, and we realize this case has just begun and we will get the decision overturned on appeal," said Jim Campbell, an Alliance Defense Fund lawyer who is part of the legal team defending Proposition 8.

Other legal analysts think the appeals court will allow the group that raised \$40 million to pass Proposition 8 to formally challenge Walker's ruling.

"What Judge Walker's ruling means is you can sponsor a proposition, direct it, research it, work for it, raise \$40 million for it, get it on a ballot, successfully campaign for it and then have no ability to defend it independently in court," said Dale Carpenter, a University of Minnesota constitutional law professor who supports same-sex marriage. "And then a judge maybe let you be the sole defender in a full-blown trial and then says, 'by the way, you never can defend this.' It just seems very unlikely to me the higher courts will buy that."

Walker's order clearing the way for same-sex marriages to resume in California for the first time since 52 percent of the state's voters approved Proposition 8 nonetheless raised hopes among gay couples who flocked to government offices to await word that they soon will be able to exchange vows.

"We just want equal rights. We're tired of being second-class citizens," said Amber Fox, 35, who went to the Beverly Hills Municipal Courthouse on Thursday morning in hopes of marrying her partner. The couple wed in Massachusetts in June but wanted to make it official in their home state.

Teresa Rowe, 31, and her partner, Kristin Orbin, 31, said they were still happy with the decision even though the ceremony didn't happen. "It's sad that we have to wait a little longer, but it's been six years,"

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Chicago Tribune Story Misleads On Gay Marriage Poll

CHICAGO (Observer Update) - The Chicago Tribune published an article on the paper's recent study of Chicago public opinion regarding gay marriage. Time Out Chicago says the article (but not the poll) is biased against gay rights, reports 365Gay.com.

Time Out points out that the article quoted just three people, all of whom opposed gay marriage. It lists a number of statistics that were gathered from the study, but only halfway through the article does it present this encouraging number: "The overall opinion on legalizing same-sex marriage, when city respondents are factored in, is split: 42 percent oppose it, 42 percent support it and 15 percent have no opinion." Until this statistic, the Tribune article presents the information as if it demonstrated Chicago's opposition to same-sex marriage.

Rather than presenting the information in the greater context of the increasing favorability of gay marriage in the U.S., the Tribune piece contextualized the information with Chicagoan's feelings about gay characters on television. Time Out Chicago called out the Tribune's interpretation of data as bias.

"The Trib article ends with the same emphasis with which it begins: 'there remains a substantial portion of the population that considers same-sex relationships to be morally wrong.' That 'substantial portion,' according to the Trib, is 37 percent. Oh, by the way: The percentage who don't hold that view is 50 percent—um, an even more 'substantial portion,' if my first-grade math is correct," wrote Novid Prossi. He concluded, "It's not just what a study shows that matters. It's how the journalists reporting on a study show what it shows."

True Blood Too Gay?



NEW YORK (Observer Update) - The editors of zap2it.com asked their readers if the HBO series True Blood, which recently introduced many same-sex plot lines, has gone too gay, advocate.com reported.

The question was posed in response to Philadelphia Eagles player Todd Herremans tweeting a complaint last week regarding the shows "barrage of homosexuality"; he later apologized.

Many zap2it readers felt strongly about the issue, with one commenter writing, "'No I do not believe it is possible to be both homophobic and a fan of the show... Going back to Todd Herremans comment on twitter, it just goes to show that watching True Blood does take an open mind, homophobes will get very uncomfortable because of there ignorance and intolerance."

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AROUND THE GAY GLOBE...

Germany's justice minister says she is considering changes to income tax laws to iron out disadvantages for gay couples. Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger told the Muenchner Merkur newspaper she thinks homosexual legal partners should be granted income tax breaks similar to those enjoyed by heterosexual married couples.

Germany's highest court ruled that gay partners are entitled to the same inheritance tax privilege as heterosexual spouses. A decision on income tax rules is pending - a touchy issue as the constitution privileges marriage.

A Catholic adoption advisory service that refuses to help gay couples cannot win an exemption from anti-discrimination laws, Britain's charity regulator said. Catholic Care, a charity in Leeds, northern England, had argued that as a religious group it should be allowed to offer adoption-support services only to heterosexuals. It said its funding from the Roman Catholic church was dependent on its policy of helping only married heterosexual couples to adopt.

In March, it won a High Court appeal of the original decision in the case, but in a final ruling Britain's Charity Commission said the group's policy was discriminatory and breached European human rights laws. The commission ordered the group to either cease its work to place children with adoptive parents or to abide by equality laws - meaning it would need to consider gay couples as prospective parents.

"The charity is very disappointed with the outcome, Catholic Care will now consider whether there is any other way in which the charity can continue to support families seeking to adopt children in need," the group said in a statement.

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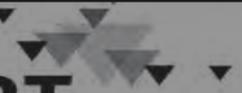


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Salt Lake City LGBT Center Hit With Anti-Gay Graffiti



SALT LAKE CITY (Observer Update) - The Utah Pride Center, an LGBT community center in Salt Lake City, had its onsite coffee shop, Lady Marmalade, vandalized with anti-gay graffiti, the Salt Lake Tribune's LGBT FYI blog reports. As you can see from the provided photo, the word "FAGS" was sprayed in paint across the shop's sign, reports towleroad.com/

...tive director of the Utah Pride Center: "We realize that often times the purpose of these actions are to cause widespread fear among the members of our community. That is why today we are speaking out. This will not be swept under the rug. We will not be scared into silence by acts of intolerance."

Said Valerie Larabee, executive director of the Utah Pride Center. The Salt Lake City police department is investigating.

Rachel Maddow To Receive The Walter Cronkite Award

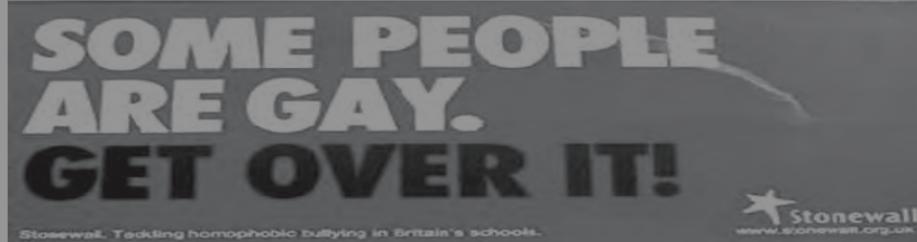


NEW YORK (Observer Update) - The Interfaith Alliance announced that the 2010 Walter Cronkite Faith & Freedom award would go to MSNBC host Rachel Maddow for her journalistic work covering religion and politics, reports 365Gay.com.

...contribute more to advancing our mission than Rachel Maddow and Joan Brown Campbell," said Rev. C. Welton Gaddy, President of Interfaith Alliance.

"Rachel's passionate coverage of the intersection of religion and politics exhibits a strong personal intellect coupled with constitutional sensitivity to the proper boundaries between religion and government," he said. The Interfaith Alliance website says that the award goes to individuals who "promote democratic values, defend religious freedom and reinvigorate informed civic participation."

It will also be awarded to Rev. Joan Brown Campbell, Director of the Department of Religion at the Chautauqua Institution. "Walter Cronkite once told me that no less than the future of our nation was at stake in the work of Interfaith Alliance, and I can think of no two people who



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Ends on a sour note,
A blow to human dignity
Historians all wrote.

NPH Wins Two Emmys



LOS ANGELES (Observer Update) - Neil Patrick Harris, who just last weekend announced that he and partner David Burtka were expecting twins, won two Emmy Awards at the creative arts ceremony, which is a precursor to the August 29 primetime show, the Associated Press reports.

Harris's awards were for best guest actor in a comedy series, for his appearance on Glee, and for his work as host of The Tony Awards show, which was named best special class program.

Also winning was Betty White, for her turn as host of Saturday Night Live.

Two people who didn't win Saturday night, Kathy Griffin (nominated for best reality program), and Kristin Chenoweth (for best guest actress in a comedy), tweeted this picture to show their despair.

Worldwide Views On Gay Rights Are Shifting

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - A recent CNN poll found that 52 percent of Americans support the right to gay marriage, but this trend toward increasing acceptance of gays and lesbians isn't just limited to the U.S., 365Gay.com reports.

Worldwide views on gay rights are also shifting. Just two years ago, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Canada and South Africa were the only countries to have legalized gay marriage. Massachusetts was the only U.S. state to do so. Since 2008, four U.S. states, Washington D.C., five countries, and Mexico City have all legalized same-sex marriage.

"Often courts will make decisions that are predictors of what public opinion is going to be a few years from now," said Brian Powell, an Indiana University sociology professor and co-author of the upcoming book, "Counted Out: Same-Sex Relations and Americans' Definitions of Family."

"Public attitudes don't change really quickly, but this is one that's changing really, really quickly," Powell said.

The fight for gay rights certainly has not been taken on by all nations; the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) published a 2010 report saying 76 countries punish people based on sexual orientation. The first lady of Uganda warned youth of the dangers of homosexuality. According to Ugandan news site New Vision, First Lady Janet Museveni addressed a youth conference and said, "In God's word, homosexuality attracts a curse, but now people are engaging in it and saying they are created that way. It is for money. The devil is stoking fires to destroy our nation and those taking advantage are doing so because our people are poor."



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DADT Spouse Survey Revealed

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Advocate.com reports that a survey of military spouses asks whether they would urge their husbands or wives to leave the armed services if the "don't ask, don't tell" policy is repealed, and whether they would attend social functions if openly gay service members appear with their partners.

The Washington Post offers a copy of the survey shared by OutServe, a group of active duty gay and lesbian troops. The 44-question survey was sent to 150,000 military spouses Friday as part of the Pentagon's review of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Some sample questions:

"How important a factor would a repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell be to you in making decisions about your spouse's future in the military?"

"Would a repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell affect your willingness to recommend military service to a family member or close friend?"

"Assume Don't Ask, Don't Tell is repealed and you live in on-base housing. If a gay or lesbian Service member lived in your neighborhood with their partner, would you stay on-base or would you try to move out?"

"Would the attendance of a gay or lesbian Service member with his or her partner affect how often you attend these types of military social events?"

In a statement issued, Servicemembers United denounced the survey for carrying the same biases that tainted the survey of 400,000 troops in July.

"This survey of military spouses

contains many of the same insulting and derogatory assumptions and insinuations about gays and lesbians that ran throughout the last survey," said Servicemembers United executive director Alexander Nicholson.

"Answer choices suggest things like the Defense Department possibly distributing flyers in military neighborhoods if, as they say, 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is repealed and that the 'readiness' of military families might somehow be impacted. Again we stress that neither the President, the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff nor anyone else would ever stand for such insulting questions being asked about any other minority group in the military in this day and age. The Pentagon's senior leadership should seriously consider Servicemembers United's offer to meet with them in person to talk about the insensitivity of these surveys and how the poor handling of these surveys might negatively impact implementation."

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

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

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

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

MONDAY

THE BIZ - Closed for employee training.

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

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

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

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

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

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

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

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Tucson Observer Archives

The Year's Best Gay Ads

LOS ANGELES (Observer Update) - Advocate.com reports that the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation announced the nominees for its second annual GLAAD Media Awards in Advertising, and honorees include campaigns with fashion designer Jack Mackenroth and transgender Givenchy model Lea T.

Companies nominated include Bertolli, Absolut Vodka, Progressive Insurance, Merck, Levi Strauss & Co., K-Y, Givenchy, Amsterdam Visitors and Convention Bureau, Tylenol PM, Miller Lite, Hyatt, GlaxoSmithKline, Garden State Equality, and Wells Fargo for its "Advocate Money Minute," shown below.

The event, hosted by former Mad Men actor Bryan Batt and Bravo personality Bethenny Frankel, honors positive and affirming LGBT images in advertising and will take place September 29 in New York City. Categories include Outstanding TV LGBT Market, Outstanding Print/Outdoor Mainstream Market, Outstanding Print Campaign LGBT Market, Outstanding Interactive, and Outstanding Social Marketing Campaign.

GLAAD president Jarrett Barrios noted that this year marked a decline in LGBT images in advertising, saying in a statement that "this year we witnessed a decline in the number of inclusive advertisements in mainstream media, and as our community continues to strive for visibility, the advertising industry should take note."

Ruling On Federal Gay Marriage Ban DOMA On Hold

BOSTON (Observer Update) - A federal court in Boston has put a hold on its July ruling that struck down portions of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) as unconstitutional, reported 365Gay.com.

U.S. District Judge Joseph Tauro suspended his ruling Wednesday for 60 days while the U.S. Department of Justice decides whether it will appeal.

The 1996 law signed by President Bill Clinton defines marriage as a heterosexual union for federal agencies and allows states to ignore the legal marriages of gay couples performed outside their borders.

Tauro's decision only considers the law's definition of marriage, which prohibits married gay and lesbian couples from accessing federal benefits. He ruled the law violates the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection guarantee.

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), the Boston-based legal group behind the challenge, said it did not oppose the government's request for a stay.

"We agreed to a stay for two reasons," Mary L. Bonauto, director of GLAD's Civil Rights Project, said. "First and foremost, it is in our clients' best interest. They want the certainty of knowing that their Social Security

payments, health insurance costs or tax refunds are not potentially subject to repayment to the government."

"Second, we think the stay actually provides clarity for married couples around the country who are looking at their own situations and wondering whether the Gill decision allows them to apply for Social Security benefits, for example, or sponsor their spouse for citizenship. The answer, even without a stay in Gill, is: not yet."

Gay marriage foes have previously suggested the government throw the case.

"Only an incompetent defense could have lost this case," Maggie Gallagher, chairwoman of the National Organization for Marriage (NOM), the country's most vociferous opponent of gay marriage, said.

While acknowledging that President Barack Obama's administration disagrees with DOMA, the Department of Justice has said it is duty-bound to defend the nation's laws.

Tauro's ruling only affects the state of Massachusetts, but should the government appeal to a higher court with a broader jurisdiction its impact could spread.

Minister Faces Trial For Gay Marriage

NAPA (Observer Update) - Jane Spahr, a lesbian Presbyterian minister in northern California, faces a church court trial for marrying gay couples in 2008, reports advocate.com.

The Presbytery of the Redwoods, which represents churches from north of San Francisco to the Oregon border, is accusing Spahr of "publicly, intentionally and repeatedly" violating Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) doctrine - the charges were filed after a congregant filed a formal complaint against the 67-year-old minister after she wed 16 couples during the short time California sanctioned same-

sex marriage. The Presbyterian Church defines marriage as between a man and a woman, but allows ministers to bless same-sex unions and perform partnership ceremonies that don't mimic traditional wedding ceremonies.

Spahr faces charges ranging from a rebuke to a suspension. She previously faced a church trial for marrying gay couples in 2006, but the charges were eventually thrown out because she didn't perform government-sanctioned marriages.

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