

Obama Yielded To Gates On DADT Repeal



President Barack Obama and Defense Secretary Robert Gates

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Advocate.com reports that an in-depth look at the rocky relationship between President Barack Obama and the military shows that he, lacking experience in uniform and saddled by two foreign wars and domestic priorities, deferred to Defense Secretary Robert Gates in setting a "slow pace" to repeal the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The New York Times examined what it called the "steep learning curve" faced by Obama in his first term as commander in chief. During the bumpy times, the president has yielded to Gates, an experienced holdover from

the Bush administration.

"Mr. Obama has relied on Mr. Gates as his ambassador to the military and deferred to him repeatedly," reported the Times. "When Mr. Gates wanted to force out Gen. David D. McKiernan in May 2009 as commander in Afghanistan in favor of Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, Mr. Obama signed off. Likewise, cognizant of Bill Clinton's ill-fated effort to end the ban on gay and lesbian soldiers, Mr. Obama let Mr. Gates set a slow pace in overturning the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy, even though it has disappointed gay rights advocates."

Mixed Primary Night For G/L Pols

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - On Tuesday August 24, LGBT candidates from Arizona to Vermont vied to appear on the ballot in November, some ending victoriously, and others heading back to the drawing board, advocate.com reports.

Jack Jackson Jr., a former Arizona state representative who once ran for the U.S. House of Representatives, essentially won election to the state senate Tuesday night, as he won the Democratic nomination and has no opponent in the general election.

According to Denis Dison at the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, with Jackson, there will be at least five openly LGBT people in the Arizona state legislature when the new session convenes. Jackson, a member of the Navajo Nation, spent the evening celebrating with his colleague Tom Chabin, who won his state house race Tuesday. Dustin Cox was not successful in his bid for the Arizona House of Representatives from District 27 (western Tucson and Pima County).

In Vermont, Democrat Steve Howard won the party's nomination for lieutenant governor with 53% of the vote against Christopher Bray, according to the Burlington Free Press. He will face Republican nominee Phil Scott, who won with 56% of the vote against Mark Snelling. Howard has been

elected to the state house of representatives six times and has served one term as the chairman of the Vermont Democratic Party. While Bray garnered support from several labor groups and five newspapers' editorial boards, Howard collected three times as much in contributions as Bray and doubled his opponent's spending.

The races did not go as well for LGBT candidates in Florida.

Transgender Republican candidate Donna Milo came in third with 22% of the vote for in the race in Florida's 20th congressional district, a high percentage since the third-place candidate in that race tends to land in the 10%-18% range, according to The Atlantic.

Milo is a social conservative who has said marriage should be a religious sacrament restricted to heterosexual couples and that "traditional families" should have priority for adopting children over gay couples.

State house incumbent Gwyn Clarke-Reed narrowly edged out Wilton Manors city commissioner Justin Flippen to win the Democratic nomination to keep her seat. The contest caused concern that the Democratic

Continued on Page Two

COMMENTARY . . .

by Lisa Neff

Pennies And Protests

Only a fool will vote for Jeremy Walters. Walters is a Republican candidate for the state legislature in Iowa's 67th District who, earlier this month, preached a Gospel of Hate from the Book of Ignorance on his Facebook page.

To quote, errors in grammar included along with the errors in thought, "The Holy Bible say if your 'GAY' homosexual they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them. This tells me a lot so should we kill them NO. They Need to ask God to forgive them of their sins and mean it turn away from it. They also need to know that when it says that their blood shall be upon them that tells me it is AIDS. Thats how I feel." How do you feel after reading that post?

Another Walters' post read, "Homosexual 'GAY is not of God!!!!!! In the Bible it reads; Leviticus 20:13 - King James Bible. If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them. So the people that don't have God in their life or don't believe in God they are a fool. Only a fool says there is no God."

Well, only a fool would vote for Jeremy Walters. And please, let's ignore his pressured apology that amounted to "please forgive me" for mis-posting the comments for public review.

Of course Walters stands no chance of winning his Des Moines district, which votes heavily Democratic. He's run before in other legislative races and undoubtedly will become a four-time loser when he faces incumbent Kevin McCarthy in November.

And the Republican Party chair in Iowa was quick to state that Walters' views are not shared by the state GOP.

So why should we care what Jeremy Walters says or writes?

Because he's got a sickness that we can't seem to eradicate.

But it is easy to diagnose.

Just last week, on a single morning, the 365gay.com home page contained stories about at least four people suffering the sickness:

Walters, Emmer, Laura Schlessinger and Fred Phelps.

Emmer is the Republican governor in Minnesota who donated \$250 to a group that endorses the execution of gays. He's grabbed some national headlines not because he's shining bright in his gubernatorial bid, but because he's the beneficiary of a \$150,000 election contribution from Target Corp. that has LGBT civil rights advocates up in arms, chanting, "Boycott" and staging flash mobs.

Schlessinger - no way she deserves "Dr." - is leaving her talk radio show after 30 years and countless offenses against gays and lesbians, such as this statement from an old radio show: "When we have the word homosexual, we are clarifying the dysfunction, the deviancy, the reality. We change it to the word gay, it makes it more difficult to pinpoint the truth. So one of the things that the homosexual agenda did was to change the name. Just like somebody complained to me yesterday about ethnic cleansing, that it sounds like washing machine as opposed to murder. They were right. Ethnic cleansing sounds nice. Murder is the truth, homosexuality is the truth. Gay isn't."

Phelps, a preacher from Kansas' Westboro Baptist Church, has made a career of hate-mongering. His current focus is demonstrating at the funerals of dead U.S. soldiers, casualties, he says, of the government's tolerance for homosexuality.

Virginia-based Pennies in Protest hasn't come up with a cure for his sickness, but it's campaign at least counters the symptoms and boosts resistance to the disease.

Pennies in Protest is a group of moms in Richmond, Va., that organized to counter a Phelps' protest in their community. They collected pennies - more than \$14,000 - to donate to local groups targeted by Phelps and then they sent a note to the church to explain how Westboro helped raise money for groups it condemns and people it vilifies.

Last time I checked my piggy banks they counted a little over \$200.

(Neff is a columnist for 365Gay.com from which this is reprinted from.)

UPDATE

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

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.

Anti-Bullying Awareness Event September 23

TUCSON (Observer Update) - A recent increase in Anti-LGBTQ bullying and harassment reports to the AVP motivated Wingspan advocates and staff to organize an event to be held Thursday, September 23, 5:30 p.m. at 525 N. Bonita.

The event is designed for affected youth and their guardians, educators, school administrators and staff, as well as concerned community members.

The goal for the event is to raise awareness of this specific type of violence and to gain a commitment from attendees to address this type of violence in their respective schools and campuses. This event is free and open to all.

For more information, contact Oscar Jimenez, 624-1779.

National Drunk Driving Crack-down Now Through Labor Day Weekend

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Tucson Police Department (TPD) has joined with the Southern Arizona DUI Task Force in the National Impaired Driving Crackdown sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The National Impaired Driving Crackdown is being conducted now through September 6, 2010.

During this time period, TPD will deploy additional officers every night with the sole purpose of locating impaired drivers. In addition, two sobriety checkpoints will also be conducted in locations with a history of high numbers of DUI collisions.

Welcome To OZ League Beginning

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Welcome to Oz Bowling League has begun their 33 week season at Tucson Bowl, 7020 E. 21st St.

Teams are mixed and consist of three individuals. Bowling skill is not important but having fun is. The league bowls on Thursday night's, starting at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Richard Foster (520) 908-8582, Joe Ware 289-9773 and David Laing 495-0143.

Mixed Primary

Continued from Page One base would split, as Flippen is gay and Clarke-Reed is black, each therefore representing one of the party's stronger constituencies, reports The Miami Herald.

And Scott Galvin, a North Miami city council member, was unable to break through to the top in a nine-candidate race for the Democratic nomination in Florida's 17th congressional district. State senator Frederica Wilson won with 35% of the vote. Galvin came in eighth with 6% of the vote, according to the Washington Blade.

September 14 is the next big date for primaries, including gay Providence, R.I., mayor David Cicilline's race for a congressional nomination.

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MANAGING EDITOR: Mark Kerr
Special Events Photos: Bill Morrow, Amanda Irvin
Contributing Columnists: Mark R. Kerr, Jack Melichar

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Informing the Community
The Observer



featuring Turnabout Emcees Jane Starr and Tempest DuJour



TUCSON (Observer Update) - Wear Your Mardi Gras Mask and Win a Prize!

Join us for this Sunday's "Turnabout for TIHAN" benefit show at the Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park, 445 South Alvernon Way.

The doors open at 5:00 p.m., and the show starts at 6:00pm. Advance tickets are only \$10.00 per person. Tickets at the door will cost \$15.00 each (if available). The evening also features a raffle with some great prizes. Watch Tucson's LGBT bar staff put on a great show,

along with emcees Jane Starr and Tempest DuJour, with this year's theme being Mardi Gras.

Audience members are encouraged to wear a Mardi Gras Mask, as there will be a contest for best masks.

Tickets are on sale now through the TIHAN office (credit card orders can be taken - (520) 299-6647.)

Creep Show Sept. 17

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Boys R Us presents Creep Show.



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

MLK's Anti-Gay Niece At Glenn Beck Rally



would lead to "extinction."

Salon reports more on her antigay background:

"In 1994, she released a letter condemning Coretta Scott King's support for abortion and gay rights, saying it would bring 'curses on your house and your people ... cursing, vexation, rebuke in all that you put your hand to, sickness will come to you and your house, your bloodline will be cut off.'

"Lynn Cothren, Coretta Scott King's openly gay special assistant for

23 years, recalls Alveda's vocal opposition to a hospice for AIDS patients in her neighborhood. Once, says Cothren, Alveda brought religious tracts to the King Center and encouraged him to repent.

"Mrs. King dealt with it," said Cothren, 'and she didn't pass out any more tracts.'"

Coretta Scott King, the late widow of Martin Luther King, Jr., called marriage equality a civil rights issue in a 2004 speech.

Tucson Observer Archives

Pentagon To Meet With G/L Partners Of Some Troops

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Members of a Pentagon working group reviewing a potential repeal of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy will meet next month with the gay and lesbian partners of some troops.

Servicemembers United, one of the nation's largest groups for gay and lesbian troops, said Thursday that it will host the first meeting ever between military officials and gay partners on Sept. 16.

Senior members of the working group will attend the meeting, said Servicemembers United Executive director Alex Nicholson. The military asked the group not to disclose the exact time and location of the meeting to ensure the security and confidentiality of the partners in attendance, Nicholson said.

"The meeting will enable [the

partners] to provide their perspectives on the topic of repeal of DADT, should it occur," said Pentagon spokeswoman Cynthia Smith. "This engagement is consistent with our comprehensive approach to this review."

"We have been pushing for partner input into the review process for quite some time," Nicholson said. "We are glad that the Pentagon recognizes the value of input from these silent heroes."

The review of the potential repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" is due by Dec. 1 to President Obama, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen. The group is also surveying the spouses of military service members and last month sent a similar survey to about 400,000 active duty and reserve troops. About 115,000 of the troops replied to the survey, according to the Pentagon.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Alveda King, the niece of Martin Luther King, Jr. who this month addressed a National Organization for Marriage event against marriage equality, will be a keynote speaker at the "Restoring Honor" rally hosted by Glenn Beck on Saturday in Washington, D.C.

The Beck rally, which is billed as "non-partisan" and also features Sarah Palin, is taking place on the 47th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, delivered at the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

According to the Daily Caller, Alveda King sees her participation in the rally as an extension of her uncle's legacy.

"I'm speaking at the Glenn Beck rally because Glenn and I have

had many conversations about faith, hope and love," she told the Daily Caller. "Glenn asked me about the philosophy and the strength to love that my uncle Martin had. I've been sharing that with Glenn and I'm hearing and seeing Glenn embrace those principles. Where those principles are bound, and they're not just rooted in the American Dream, but in the faith of our Father."

Critics including the NAACP and the National Action Network disagree that the slain civil rights leader would see eye to eye with conservatives, and they're leading a "Reclaim the Dream" counter rally on Saturday.

Earlier this month, Alveda King spoke at a NOM rally in Atlanta, where she compared marriage equality to "genocide" and warned that it

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General James Conway's Full Comments On DADT



SOURCE: MILITARY.COM

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Advocate.com reported that Marine commandant Gen. James Conway fielded a number of questions about the potential repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" from reporters at the Pentagon. His answers were a mixed bag – while he said he hopes the law will not be lifted, he also said the Marines would implement repeal quickly and would fight for the rights of gay soldiers.

your successors, considering that these changes will probably take place long after you're gone? What would you like to say on those two fronts?

Conway: In terms of "don't ask, don't tell," you know, we will obey the law. We're anxious to see what the survey indicates when it's made public towards the end of the year.

From the 8/24/2010 transcript:

Q: The Marine Corps in the next few years is going to be facing some big changes on two fronts. One would be the discussion about the role that the Marines play in future warfare, and then also the changes to personnel policy under – if "don't ask, don't tell" is lifted. So what advice would you like to leave

But I caution our Marines and our Marine leadership: If the law changes, we pride our corps in leading the services in many, many things, and we're going to have to lead in this too. There will be a hundred issues out there that we have to solve, if the law changes, in terms of how we do business, and we cannot be seen as dragging our feet

or some way delaying implementation. We've got a war to fight. We need to, if the law changes, implement and get on with it.

Q: General, I wanted to pick up on "don't ask, don't tell." As you know, the Senate's going to pick it up next month as part of the authorization bill. And you've told the Hill that you think the current policy works and that you would never ask Marines to room with a homosexual if we can avoid it. You've been followed by other Marine generals – Jack Sheehan, Peter Pace, Carl Mundy – in opposing a change in the policy.

And also, if you look at the polls done by Military Times, the Marines seem to oppose any change in policy by a fairly significant margin.

And I want you to focus on: What is it about the Marines that they – they oppose this change in policy, repealing "don't ask, don't tell?" You've been in the corps for over 40 years. You get out there and talk to Marines. What is it that the Marines oppose about this – more so than the other services?

Conway: Well, that's a tough question to answer, Tom, because I'm not as familiar with the other services as I am my own corps. So any comparison or contrast is difficult.

But we recruit a certain type of young American, pretty macho guy or gal, that is willing to go fight and perhaps die for their country. That's about the only difference that I see between the other services. I mean, they recruit from a great strain of young Americans as well. They all come from the same areas and that type of thing.

So I can only think that, as we look at our mission, how we are forced to live in close proximity aboard ship, in the field for long periods of time and that type of thing, that the average Marine out there, and by the way, my own surveys indicate that it's not age-dependent, it's not rank-dependent, it's not where you're from; it's, as you highlight, pretty uniformly not endorsed as the ideal way ahead. But I just think all those things have impact on the Marines. And we'd just as soon not see it change. But again, we will follow the law, whatever the law prescribes.

Q: As far as living in tight quarters, is that the issue you hear mostly when you talk to Marines out in the field?

Conway: Well, see, we, unlike the other services, we have consciously, for decades now, billeted by twos. So if the law changes, we start out with a problem in terms of how to address that. And I've spoken publicly some about that in the past.

You know, we'll deal with it. I do not believe there's money out there to build another requirement for BEQs, to allow every Marine to have a room by his or herself. So how we deal with the billeting problem is going to one of that myriad of issues that we'll have to face.

Q: How would you deal with it?

Conway: I don't know. I don't know. We sometimes ask Marines, you know, what is – what is their preference. And I can tell you that an

overwhelming majority would like not to be roomed with a person who is openly homosexual.

Some do not object, and perhaps – you know, perhaps a voluntary basis might be the best way to start, without violating anybody's sense of moral concern or perception on the part of their mates.

I don't know. We're not there yet. And it's one of those hypotheticals at this point that we have to consider but we won't have to deal with until the law changes, if it does.

Q: I want to take you back to "don't ask, don't tell." You said something that I'd like to ask you what you meant, with precision. You talked about – when you said that, you know, some Marines are skeptical of all this, you talked about the – and your words were "the moral perception that Marines have of people serving in the Marine Corps who are openly gay." What do you mean by moral perception?

Conway: Barbara, we have some people that are very religious. And I think in some instances – I couldn't begin to give you a percentage, but I think in some instances we will have people that say that homosexuality is wrong, and they simply do not want to room with a person of that persuasion because it would go against their religious beliefs. So that's my belief about some percentage of Marines in our corps.

Q: And what do you – if that is the case, and the law changes, as a senior commander, then – it's a volunteer force. Should those people leave?

Should accommodations be made? What do you – what do you do about that?

Conway: Yeah. Well, I think, as a commander, you try to satisfy the requirements of all your Marines. And if the law changes and we have homosexual Marines, we'll be as concerned about their rights, their privileges, their morale as we will Marines who feel differently about that whole paradigm.

So commanders – local commanders will be required to assist us in making sure that every Marine is provided for and is focused on the fight at hand.

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Researchers Identify Two FDA Approved Drugs That May Fight HIV

MINNEAPOLIS (Observer Update) - Science Daily is reporting that Researchers at the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center have identified two drugs that, when combined, may serve as an effective treatment for HIV.

The two drugs, decitabine and gemcitabine – both FDA approved and currently used in pre-cancer and cancer therapy – were found to eliminate HIV infection in the mouse model by causing the virus to mutate itself to death – an outcome researchers dubbed “lethal mutagenesis.”

This is a landmark finding in HIV research because it is the first time this novel approach has been used to attack the deadly virus without causing toxic side effects. Because decitabine and gemcitabine are already FDA approved, researchers believe that if their research is effective in large animal models, it will be much easier to expedite the development of the drugs for human use.

The study is a collaboration between molecular virologists Louis Mansky, Ph.D., and Christine Clouser, Ph.D., of the Institute for Molecular Virology and School of Dentistry, as well as medicinal chemist Steven Patterson, Ph.D., from the Center for Drug Design. The findings were recently published online in the Journal of Virology.

“The findings provide hope that such an approach will someday help the 33 million people worldwide who currently live with HIV,” Mansky said.

HIV mutates and evolves quickly. Rather than inhibiting virus growth and replication like current HIV drugs, this new drug combination forces the virus to do just the opposite – evolve beyond control, to the point of extinction.

“HIV’s ability to mutate makes it difficult to target and treat,” Mansky said. “We wanted to take advantage of this behavior by stimulating HIV’s mutation rate, essentially using the virus as a weapon against itself.”

One way to decrease cost and expedite the development of novel drugs is by the use of drug repositioning, the process of taking a drug that is used to treat one medical condition, and using it to treat a different illness.

By examining drugs that are already approved by the Food and Drug Administration, the researchers hope to expedite the development of this drug combination because the safety profiles of the two drugs are known.

U of M researchers found that the drug concentrations needed to eliminate HIV infection cause no measureable cell toxicity and were effective against HIV cultures at concentrations well below the current levels used for cancer treatment.

Gemcitabine and decitabine have been administered in pre-clinical

trials with mice. Initial findings confirm that the drugs are an effective antiviral therapy for HIV.

The researchers are now in the process of modifying the drugs to forms that can be absorbed by the human body when taken orally.

The study was funded by the Center for Drug Design, Academic Health Center and the National Institutes of Health.

Gay Groups Meet With Utah Governor



Utah Governor Gary Herbert

SALT LAKE CITY (Observer Update) - Gay advocates met with Utah governor Gary Herbert in a private reception, reported advocate.com.

According to the The Salt Lake Tribune, attendees included the Log Cabin Republicans, who have endorsed Herbert, as well as groups likely to lean Democratic, including Equality Utah, the Utah Pride Center, and the Human Rights Campaign. Republican officials in attendance included lieutenant governor Greg Bell, the state and Salt Lake County party chairmen, and at least two area mayors.

The reception began three years ago when former governor Jon Huntsman hosted the Log Cabin Republicans. Unlike Huntsman, who became U.S. ambassador to China, Herbert does not support civil unions for same-sex couples or a statewide law against employment and housing discrimination.

Herbert told the crowd of 150 guests, “You’re all part of the fabric of Utah,” according to the Tribune.

Cameras were not allowed inside the reception, but Fox News 13 reporter Arikka Von attended the reception and said that topics included the epidemic of homelessness among LGBT youths and the recent vandalism at the Utah Pride Center.



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COMMENTARY . . .

by Karl Frisch



Ken Mehlman

When it comes to reporting on the hypocrisy of public figures it seems everything is fair game except hypocrisy dealing with sexual orientation.

Sure, no reporter would have a problem disclosing that a politician who has railed against corruption is taking bribes but what about anti-gay politicians living

closeted gay double lives? Good luck finding a mainstream reporter willing to break that news unless the figure is involved in some sort of sexual scandal.

I've written about the media double standard on outing in the past, including a post about a documentary in which I noted:

In early May, National Public Radio, a supposed bastion of liberal media bias, found itself in the crosshairs of the lesbian and gay community over an online review of Outrage, a documentary chronicling the hypocrisy of prominent, purportedly closeted politicians with staunchly anti-gay voting records.

What sparked the controversy was not the documentary itself, but the fact that NPR's review failed to name names. In fact, while Nathan Lee, the review's initial author, had included the identities of those fingered in the film, NPR editors took it upon themselves to censor the review prior to publication. That is why it was

Ambinder Gets It Right On "Outing" Closeted, Anti - Gay Public Figures

refreshing to see these comments from Marc Ambinder in Howard Kurtz's Washington Post column:

Marc Ambinder, the political junkie who writes for the Atlantic, says he suspected, like lots of insiders, that Ken Mehlman was gay.

In fact, years before the former Republican Party chairman acknowledged his sexuality to Ambinder in an interview, the reporter tried to find out. And, says Ambinder, he would have outed Mehlman if he had evidence.

"I would have reported it because he was in power at a time when the Republican Party was whipping up anti-gay sentiment to get votes," Ambinder says in an interview. "I'm very squeamish about outing anyone. That squeamishness certainly would have gone into the equation. But there would have been a clear and compelling reason. Even though outing would have encroached on his personal dignity, which would have made me uncomfortable, it would have been the right thing to do to hold

someone in power accountable."

Ambinder is precisely right the fact that Mehlman helmed the Republican Party during an era when it "was whipping up anti-gay sentiment" made questions about his sexual orientation fair game.

Of course, if the issue of Mehlman's sexuality had been the chatter of "lots of insiders" as Kurtz writes, I'm curious to know if anyone other than Ambinder bothered to attempt reporting out the story.

If reporters are "squeamish" about "outing," they need to push through those feelings and do their job, just like Ambinder indicates he did before finally getting Mehlman on the record. Failure to move beyond those feelings only prolongs the current media climate where LGBT issues are seen as controversial and sexual orientation is something to be embarrassed about.

The notion that "lots of insiders" heard chatter about Mehlman being gay during his tenure at the Republican National Committee and apparently failed to practice their craft makes me squeamish.

(Karl Frisch is a writer for Media Matters for America, from which this is reprinted from.)

Mysterious Death For "Private" Gay Spy

CARDIFF (Observer Update) Advocate.com reports that Welsh police investigators are not classifying the death of an MI6 agent as a murder despite finding his body stuffed in a bag placed in the bathtub of his apartment.

Gareth Williams, 30, was found dead after his body had been decomposing for as long as two weeks, Wales Online reports. A pathologist said there were no signs of stabbing, shooting, or strangulation, and police said Williams, described as a "fitness fanatic" may have "died innocently." They also said there was no sign of forced entry into his apartment.

Williams's family is dismissing speculation that he may have died after a sex game took a wrong turn. According to the report, his sexual orientation and experience as a transvestite had upset his parents, and his privately guarded life may be a key in learning more about his death. Investigators said he likely knew who killed him and that his death was probably not related to his professional life as a spy.

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AROUND THE GAY GLOBE...

As Australian leaders continued to negotiate on forming a new government, Tasmanian independent Andrew Wilkie presented a list of demands including a conscience vote on marriage equality to Prime Minister Julia Gillard and opposition leader Tony Abbott, reports advocate.com.

According to The Australian, the pro-equality Wilkie presented the list of demands in meetings with Gillard and Abbott. Neither Gillard nor Abbott support marriage equality.

"Mr Wilkie's national demands include maximum \$1 bets and \$120/hour loss limits on pokies machines, an increase to all government pensions, including dental care in medicare, a conscience vote on gay marriage and increased aged care funding," reported The Australian.

Wilkie is one of four politicians playing the role of "kingmaker" as the parties struggle to form a minority government in the wake of national elections that left Australia with its first hung parliament since World War II.

Conservative coming-out stories this week have now spanned the Atlantic. Two days after former Republican National Committee chairman Ken Mehlman confirmed in an interview that he is gay, Crispin Blunt, an MP in the United Kingdom's Department of Justice, has separated from his wife, deciding "to come to terms with his homosexuality," the BBC reports.

Blunt, 50, is the uncle of actress Emily Blunt. He previously served as an army officer for 11 years.

An unidentified member of Blunt's Conservative Party told the BBC, "It's a bit of a shock. We didn't know in advance. ... But everyone in the local party likes him and it's a courageous thing to do. It's really a private matter for him."

A British expatriate man and an Indian man this month became the first foreign same-sex couple to marry in Nepal. According to the Daily Telegraph, Sanjay Shah, originally from Leicester, married an Indian man who did not want to be identified in a ceremony in Kathmandu.

"Though Nepal does not yet recognise same-sex marriage, ceremonies performed by priests are generally accepted," reported the Telegraph. "The wedding was organised by LGBT group the Blue Diamond Society, and happened just a few days before Nepal's first gay pride march, which was attended by an estimated 2000 people."

Nepal is making significant progress toward equality compared to neighboring Asian countries, with same-sex marriage likely to become legal when the government incorporates gay rights into the constitution.

Newspaper Will Allow Legal Gay Wedding Announcements

OMAHA (Observer Update) - A newspaper publisher in Omaha, Neb. has announced a policy change that will allow gay and lesbian couples to share the news about their weddings - as long as they're legally recognized as weddings, reported advocate.com.

The change in the Omaha World-Herald comes after parents Jeff and Heidi Wilke attempted to submit a wedding announcement for their daughter Kristin Wilke and her new wife Jessica Kitzman. The couple married on August 20 in Minnesota and the Wilkes wanted an announcement of their daughter's wedding included in a preceding issue of the newspaper. However, publisher Terry Kroeger told the Wilkes that same-sex couples are not allowed to buy announcements in the Omaha World-Herald.

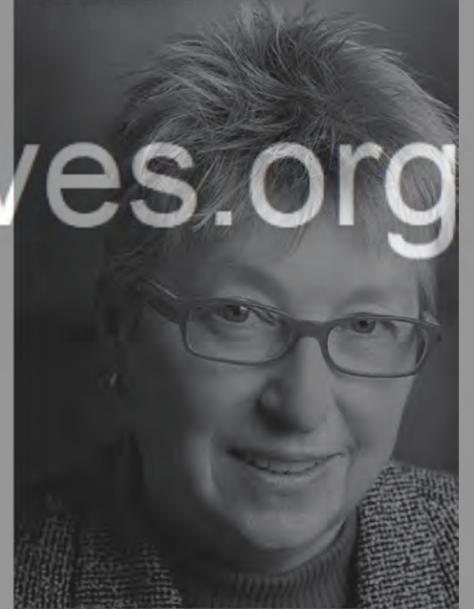
After the rejection, Kitzman and Wilke launched a Facebook group to bring the issue to light. They say they've learned about more couples who were rejected from the newspaper's celebrations section because they are gay or lesbian.

"Moving forward, please understand that this effort is for ALL same-gender couples seeking this right - not just our family," the couple wrote on the the Facebook profile for "Omaha World Herald Denies GLBT Equal Rights."

According to Media Matters, the newspaper has mitigated its policy Monday, and will print announcements for "legal weddings, engagements for legal weddings or anniversaries of a legal marriage."

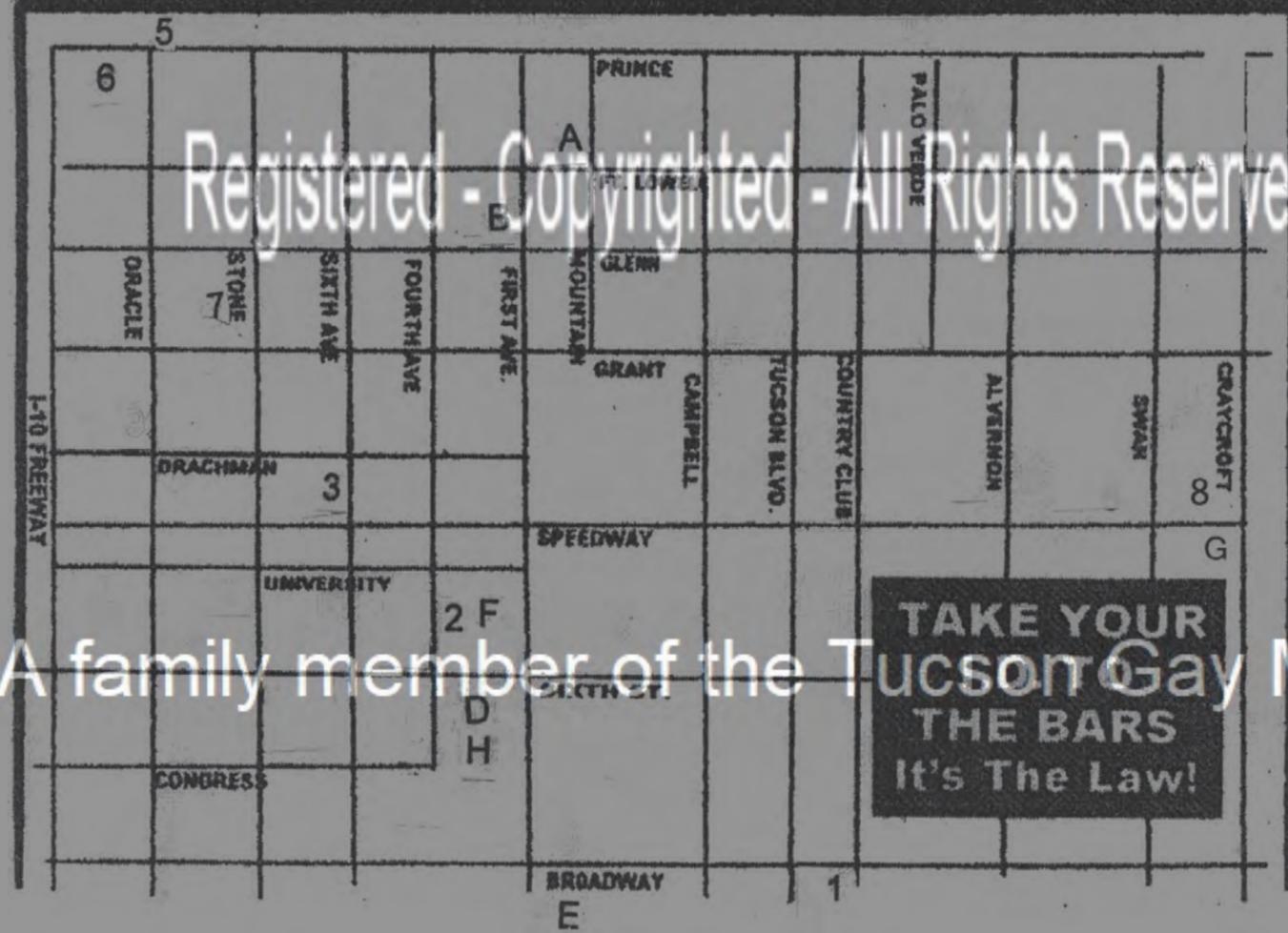
Kroger said that while some will criticize the paper for either going too far, or not far enough, "our sense is that this change will provide for a public 'celebration' of important milestones in the lives of people who take the significant steps toward legally sanctioned marriage." He said that the Omaha World-Herald would only publish announcements for weddings that reside in one of the states that legally recognize same-sex marriage: Iowa, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Washington, D.C.

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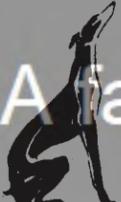


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Atlanta Police Investigating Slaying Of Black Gay Pride Organizer

ATLANTA (Observer Update) - Atlanta police are investigating whether the murder of the organizer of the city's Black Gay Pride celebration was shot because he was gay, reports 365Gay.com.

"The Atlanta Police Department is exploring all possibilities with regards to the homicide of Durand Robinson," Atlanta Police Department spokesman Carlos Campos told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Robinson, 50, owned a popular gay club and was found dead in the middle of a street in southwest Atlanta. He was shot in the chest.



Durand Robinson

Denver LGBT's Condemn Police Violence

DENVER (Observer Update) - Advocate.com reports that LGBT activists gathered to speak out against the actions of Denver police officers who were caught on tape using excessive force on two gay men.

"As we wait for the findings from the FBI investigation, we must recognize that this is not an isolated incident. We need a criminal justice system that works to build trust and security among our communities, rather than terrorizing people with fear and violence," said GLBT Community Center of Colorado legal director Mindy Barton, according to local TV station KDVR.

Cameras captured the rough treatment of Shawn Johnson and

Michael DeHerrera, and the footage (see video below) has received widespread publicity. The indicted officers were given suspended for three days with docked pay for excessive violence. Ron Perea, the city's manager of safety, resigned in the wake of the event.

Cynthia Parker, a gay correctional officer and former Washington, D.C., police officer, said she remains loyal to the police's mission but will speak out against wrongs. "I still bleed blue," she said, adding, "I still love my brothers and sisters on the job, and I respect what they do. But I also will not sit still. I will call out those who violate the public trust, and who use brutality as a means of enforcement."

Lutheran Church Splits Over Gay Clergy

MINNEAPOLIS (Observer Update) - Justoutblog.com reports that a group of Lutherans who disapprove of gay clergy broke away from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to form their own church - the North American Lutheran Church, according to USA Today.

The ELCA's decision to allow non-celibate gay pastor's to serve in its congregations was the final straw for a contingent that had been involved in in-fighting since the 1990s.

According to USA Today, "So far, 199 ELCA congregations nationwide have decided to leave the denomination since last summer's vote on gay clergy, says John Brooks, a spokesman for the Chicago-based denomination. More churches are voting later this year on whether to break ties with the ELCA."

The new denomination has 18 churches in 12 states so far, and will have its offices in the Twin Cities suburb of New Brighton, Minn.

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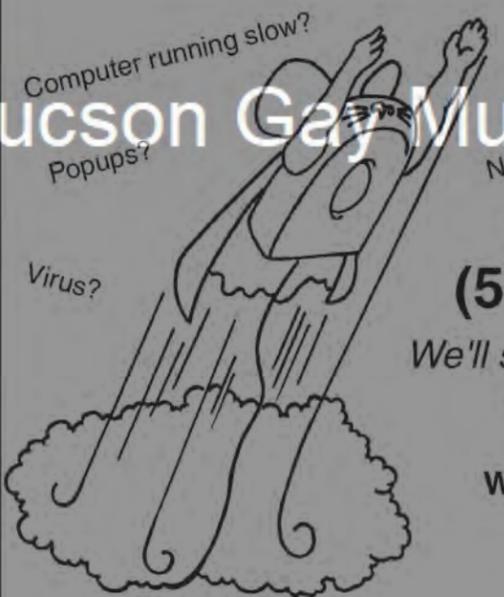
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Poet's Corner

TRUE LOVE?

By Ron Rose, Tucson

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 Or a handsome movie star.
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 From Heaven high above
 Is met with great resistance
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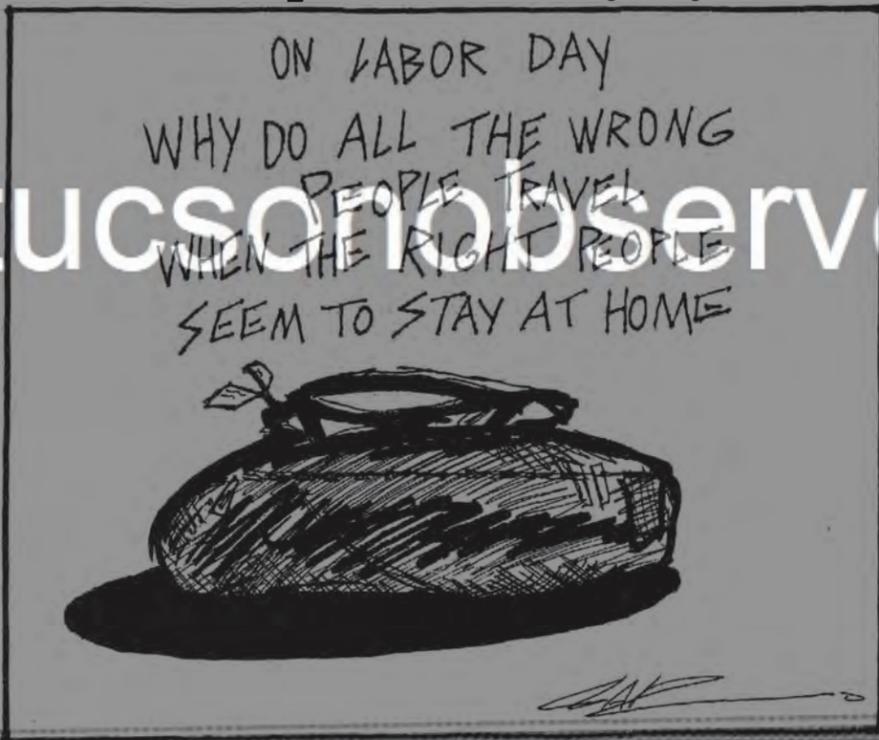
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The Way I Saw It. . .by Gary Clark



EDITOR'S NOTE: Before his untimely death, Gary Clark had worked on this newspaper for nearly 40 years as graphic artist and Entertainment Editor. Part of his heritage was producing a weekly humorous drawing of life 'as he saw it'. It is amazing that most of these drawings are as funny and entertaining today as they were in past years. We have decided to open the 'vaults' on these faultless viewpoints. Enjoy!

Most Americans Believe Gay Men And Lesbians Should Be Able To Serve In The Military

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - A new CBS News poll shows that 75% of Americans believe gay men and lesbians should be allowed to serve in the military.

Only 19% are opposed to having gay or lesbian service members. That's about the same percent of the country that believes President Obama is Muslim.

Interestingly, a smaller group, 64%, supports gay men and lesbians serving "openly" in the military. And among veterans and current service members, 61% support allowing gay people to serve.

The military is currently undertaking a review of how best to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell, which forbids openly gay men and women from serving in the armed forces. The review includes surveying service members on how they feel about serving alongside gay people.

Their report is due in December, but some in Congress are pushing to repeal the law before then.

Cadet: West Point "A Whirlpool Of Lies"

WEST POINT (Observer Update) - The recent withdrawal of lesbian West Point cadet Katherine Miller has brought the military academy's closeted LGBT student body into the spotlight, with some referring to the school environment as "a whirlpool of lies."

A recent New York Times profile examines the lives of West Point's LGBT students, conducted mostly through anonymous interviews.

The students explain the intricate deceptions necessary to maintain a straight cover at the institution, likening the experience to "living in a snow globe" where they aren't allowed to date, aren't allowed to lie, and are subject to search at any time if administrators become suspicious of "a propensity to engage in homosexual acts."

Calif Legislature Approves Removing Gay 'Cure' Language

SACRAMENTO (Observer Update) - The California State Senate passed a bill that would repeal a section of the California Welfare and Institutions code that instructs the State Department of Mental Health to conduct research into the "causes and cures of homosexuality," with the implication that lesbian, gay, and bisexual Californians are sexual deviants, potential sex offenders and a threat to children, reports advocate.com.

The bill, AB 2199, was passed in a unanimous 36-0 vote that included bipartisan support and is sponsored by Equality California and was introduced by Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal (D-Long Beach).

"It is outrageous that California law requires the state to expend scarce resources in a futile attempt to 'cure' homosexuality," said Geoff Kors, executive director of Equality California. "Every reputable study has

demonstrated conclusively that it is an immutable characteristic that cannot and should not be changed. This offensive code must be stricken from the books immediately."

The code, which was originally authored in the 1950s, implies that lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals can and should be cured, in direct contradiction with an enormous body of research that demonstrates otherwise.

"Support for this bill has been fantastic," said Assemblymember Lowenthal. "That speaks volumes about how far we've come since 1950."

This bill, Repeal of Discriminatory Code, heads back to the Assembly for a concurrence vote and will then go to the governor's desk.

To find out more information about Equality California legislation, visit eqca.org/legislation.

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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. 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 & Jane 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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Jane Lynch, Eric Stonestreet & Gay-Inclusive "Modern Family" Take Emmys



Openly Gay Actress Jane Lynch

LOS ANGELES (Observer Update) - Openly gay Jane Lynch, Eric Stonestreet, who plays gay, and the gay-inclusive comedy Modern Family won Emmys, reports On Top Magazine.

Recently married Jane Lynch thanked her wife in accepting an Emmy for her portrayal of sharp tongued coach Sue Sylvester on the Fox musical-comedy hit Glee.

"Thank you so much, this is outlandish," she said. "My god, my heart is pounding, I have nine seconds ... And I thank my daughter Hayden and wife Laura."

Openly gay Glee creator Ryan Murphy was honored for his writing on the show: "I'd like to dedicate this to all my teachers who taught me to sing and fingerpaint."

Stonestreet, who plays gay dad Cameron on ABC's Modern Family, said he would take his Emmy for best supporting actor in a comedy to his parent's house in Kansas City.

Controversy surrounding the lack of a gay kiss on the show didn't stop the Sunday night comedy from winning best comedy. Modern Family edged out Glee, the clear favorite of critics, to win the award.

Gay-dad-to-be Neil Patrick Harris, who lost his bid at a third Emmy, joked that he was happy to see a gay man had followed him in hosting the show: "I'd like to thank the academy for allowing a gay man to host the show two years in a row. Congratulations Jimmy [Fallon], you're doing a great job!"

Church Rules Against Spahr

NAPA (Observer Update) - Advocate.com reports that the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Napa, Calif.-Redwoods Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church has upheld three of the four charges against the Reverend Dr. Jane Adams Spahr, who performed same-sex marriages during the brief period it was legal for gay and lesbian couples to marry in California in 2008.

The commission found Spahr had "violated her ordination vows" by presiding over the ceremonies. According to the church's prosecutor, pastors can bless gay and lesbian unions but cannot call them marriages.

"This is such a sad moment for the Church," Spahr, who has been a minister for 36 years, said in a statement. "Today, the Church rejected God's amazing hospitality and welcome. It deeply troubles and saddens me."

Interestingly, in its verdict, the church praised Spahr:

"In the reality in which we live today, marriage can be between same gender as well as opposite gender persons, and we, as a church, need to be able to respond to this reality as Dr. Jane Spahr has done with faithfulness and compassion." Spahr and her legal team are looking into options for appeal.

Minn. Pastor Back In Pulpit After Gay Report

MINNEAPOLIS, MN - A Lutheran pastor in Minneapolis who opposes homosexuals being allowed to lead congregations said he is attracted to men, but that he's not a hypocrite because he never acted on his urges, reported ap.com.

The Rev. Tom Brock told the Associated Press he has known for years he is sexually attracted to men, but doesn't consider himself gay because he never acted on it. The gay magazine Lavender reported that Brock was a member of a support group for Christians who struggle with same-sex attraction. Brock's church, the Hope Lutheran Church placed him on leave while

Continued

a task force looked into the matter. The Rev. Tom Parrish, the church's executive pastor, said the investigations determined Brock's story checked out.

"I am a 57-year-old virgin," Brock told the Hope Lutheran congregation during services upon returning to the pulpit.

Brock and Parrish would not share the full task force report, but Parrish said its members could find no evidence Brock ever had sex with men. They confirmed that Brock sought counseling and enlisted another minister as an "accountability partner" with whom he frequently discussed his struggles.

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