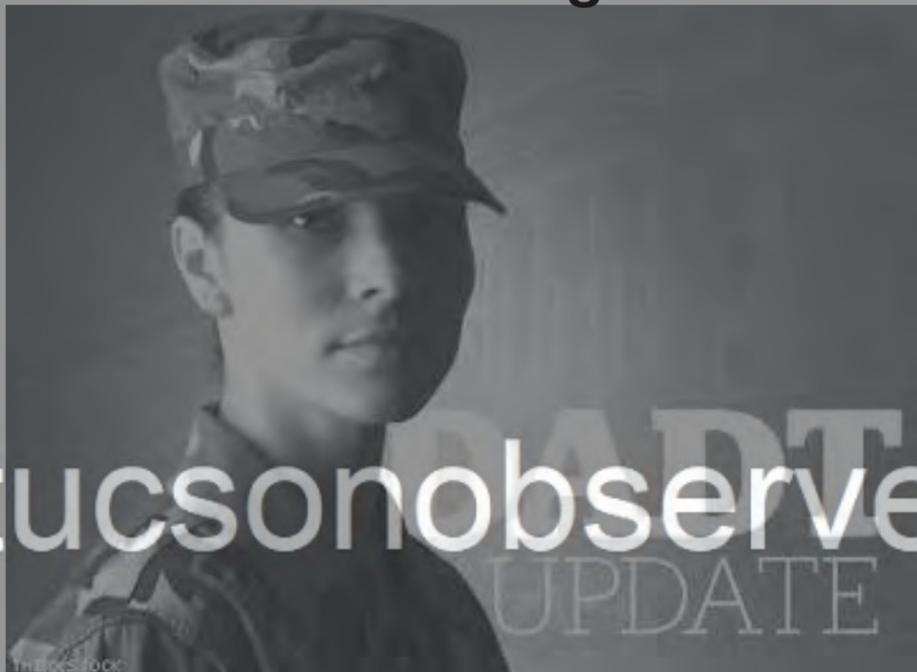


261 DADT Discharges In 2010



WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - Servicemembers United, the nation's largest organization of gay and lesbian troops and veterans, announced that it has obtained documents showing that the total official number of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) discharges for Fiscal Year 2010 was 261.

The annual fiscal year DADT discharge statistic combines the total number of discharges reported by the Department of Defense, which was 250, with the total number of discharges reported by the Department of Homeland Security for the Coast Guard, which was 11.

"While this latest official discharge number represents an all-time annual low, it is still unusually high considering that the Secretary of Defense issued a directive half-way through the fiscal year to make it much harder for military units to discharge troops under 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" said Alexander Nicholson, Executive Director of Servicemembers United. "Despite this

law clearly being on its deathbed at the time, 261 more careers were terminated and 261 more lives were abruptly turned upside down because this policy."

While these annual figures released by the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security are used to calculate the official DADT discharge statistics, which now stand at grand total of 13,686, Servicemembers United previously uncovered and reported that the Department of Defense does not actually release information on all discharges under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

National Guard discharge numbers, which have yet to be released for fiscal year 2010, are often omitted from the official annual discharge numbers reported by the Department of Defense. This means that the total unofficial number of servicemembers discharged under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is now at least 14,316.

Apple Removes Exodus 'Ex-Gay' App From iTunes

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Apple has removed an app from the "ex-gay" group Exodus International from its iTunes store, reports On Top Magazine.

The company removed the app on Tuesday after nearly 150,000 people signed onto an online petition sponsored by Truth Wins Out, a group founded specifically to counter the claims of "ex-gay" ministries.

"It's official, the @ExodusInl App is no longer in the @AppStore," Exodus International President Alan Chambers tweeted late Tuesday to his nearly 700 followers. "Incredibly disappointing. Watch out, it could happen to you. #freedom." A search on iTunes verified the app was no longer available in the digital store.

Wayne Besen, president of Truth Wins Out, earlier said he was petitioning for the app's removal because Exodus' message is harmful. "Exodus' message is hateful and bigoted," Besen wrote on his group's website. "They claim to offer 'freedom from homosexuality through the power of Jesus Christ' and use scare tactics, misinformation, stereotypes and distortions of LGBT life to recruit clients. They endorse the use of so-called 'reparative therapy' to 'change' the sexual orientation of their clients, despite the fact that this form of 'therapy' has been rejected by every major professional medical organization."

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Obama Administration Signs Onto United Nations Gay Rights Resolution

UNITED NATIONS (Observer Update) - Eighty-five countries including the United States issued a joint statement at the United Nations Human Rights Council on Tuesday expressing support for gay rights, reports On Top Magazine.

The statement expresses "concern at continued evidence in every region of acts of violence and related human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity" and calls on countries "to take steps to end acts of violence, criminal sanctions and related human rights violations committed against individuals because of their sexual orientation or gender identity."

"Human rights are the inalienable right of every person, no matter who they are or who they love," Eileen Chamberlain Donahue, U.S. ambassador to the council in Geneva, said in a statement. "The U.S. government is firmly committed to supporting the right of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals to lead productive and dignified lives, free from fear and violence."

Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC),

the nation's largest gay rights advocate, applauded the move.

"The Administration has laudably reaffirmed its commitment to the philosophy that LGBT rights are human rights by joining today's statement before the U.N. Human Rights Council," Solmonese said in a statement. "With over 89 nations jointly participating in the statement, the message is clear that hate violence against LGBT people should not be tolerated by any government."

A 2008 United Nations General Assembly resolution calling for the universal decriminalization of being gay was met with an equally forceful, Arab-backed statement opposing it. The statement, which gathered 66 signatures after it was read in the chamber, condemned homosexuality: "[Decriminalizing homosexuality could lead] to the social normalization, and possibly the legitimization, of many deplorable acts including pedophilia."

More than 80 countries, mostly in Africa and the Middle East, outlaw sex between members of the same sex. Nine countries prescribe death as punishment.

Pentagon Meets With DADT Repeal Advocates

PENTAGON (Observer Update) - LGBT organizations and gay service member advocacy groups met last week with Pentagon officials for a status update on implementation of "don't ask, don't tell" repeal, The Advocate has learned.

During the meeting, which included representatives from Human Rights Campaign, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, Center for American Progress, Servicemembers United, Outserve, Third Way, and American Veterans for Equal Rights, advocates discussed ongoing concerns related to DADT repeal, including the lack of antidiscrimination protections for gay service members under the Military Equal Opportunity program. Representatives from two separate organizations spoke to The Advocate on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the meeting.

Concerns addressed at the meeting centered on three main topics: benefits for same-sex partners of gay service members, the insufficiency of existing channels for reporting antigay harassment, and a mechanism to allow those removed from the armed forces under DADT to reclassify their discharge.

"The bottom line was this: Because the Repeal Implementation Team sees that the task before them is to implement the Pentagon Working Group Report, it was important for us to raise these issues," said a source.

At the one-hour meeting - led by Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Steven A. Hummer of the Repeal Implementation Team - officials spoke about completion dates for DADT implementation training but would not speculate on a possible certification date for repeal, though a source said a "summer or fall window" is likely and that certification is not necessarily tied to completion of training.

"[Pentagon officials] led us to believe that certification could be earlier or later than [training completion]," said one source. "Certification depends on

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UPDATE

Obama And LGBT Issues: Where Do We Go From Here?



TRACY BAIM

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Chicagoan Tracy Baim will discuss "Mid-term Report Card: Obama and LGBT Issues" Tuesday, April 5, at the Pima County Main Library, 101 N. Stone Ave., in the Lower Level Room (LL1). A reception starts at 5:30 p.m.; the program, at 6 p.m.

The event is co-sponsored by Wingspan and the University of Arizona Institute of LGBT Studies. Admission is free. Baim is the author of the new book "Obama and the Gays: A Political Marriage," the first thorough history of Barack Obama's interaction with the LGBT community, from the mid-1990s onward.

"It is widely acknowledged," Baim says, "that the role of gays" (a term she uses to represent all LGBT people) "in the United States, including their role in mainstream politics, has been left out of most history books - but the omission is particularly egregious for the 2008 election." According to Baim, "the book takes a detailed look at Obama's trajectory on gay rights, an arc that has been too liberal and 'radical' for some, not nearly progressive enough for others."

Baim will also speak at 1 p.m., Monday, April 4, in the Copper Room, UA Student Union, on "LGBT Media: Out of the Closet and Into the Newsrooms." For more information, visit the UA Institute for LGBT Studies website at www.lgbt.arizona.edu

City Council Candidates Need Our Help

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Shirley Scott, Paul Cunningham and Regina Romero are running to stay on the Tucson City Council for their respective Ward's, Ward 1 (Romero), Ward 2 (Cunningham) and Ward 4 (Scott).

All three have been supportive of the Tucson LGBT community and issues of concern as well and are asking for help from our community to help circulate petitions to get the signatures needed to qualify for the September ballot.

To contact Regina Romero's campaign to volunteer, call (520) 406-9778. For Paul Cunningham's campaign, call (520) 339-1983. For Shirley Scott's campaign, call (520) 270-9662.

Open House And A Memorial For Maurice

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Our address may be "old": 430 E. Seventh St. But what people saw Tuesday, March 29, from 5 to 7 p.m. will be brand spanking new, when Wingspan held its Open House to unveil to all comers the exciting new look in the community center.

"We are proud and pleased to announce that when we set out to update our furniture in the center, a very generous anonymous donor stepped up to do not only that, but much, much more," said Wingspan in a press release.

Outside Wingspan is something new, too: the Maurice Grossman Memorial Bike Rack, designed and fashioned by Angie Perry. Angie is from BICAS (Bicycle Inter-Community Art and Salvage), a nonprofit community-run education and recycling center for bicycles at 44 W. Sixth St.

Tucson Take Back The Night April 12

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Take a stand against sexual violence and join us for TUCSON TAKE BACK THE NIGHT 2011! Thirty-three years ago, Take Back The Night started as a visible way for the community to come together against sexual violence. Today it's an international movement, and one that you can be a part of.

Stand up and speak out against sexual violence by joining our community for an evening of awareness raising, education, media, and performances by local artists, dancers and musicians. Together, we have the power to end sexual violence!

Join us at the Main public Library at 5:00pm before the event for a solidarity march to Armory Park! Then come together with our community at Armory park from 6-8:30pm for an evening of awareness-raising & to support survivors of sexual and relationship violence through performances, artwork, music, speakers, information and much more! For more information, contact Stephanie Arendt, 520-327-1171.



Treasures For TIHAN April 30



TUCSON (Observer Update) - The 14th Annual Treasures for TIHAN, a live and silent auction with great food and entertainment, to benefit the programs and services offered by TIHAN (the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Action Network) will take place Saturday, April 30, 6:00 pm, at the Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park, 445 South Alvernon Way

"Treasures for TIHAN," the signature fundraising benefit for the programs and services of TIHAN, celebrates its 14th anniversary with a spectacular event! Join event co-chairs Kim and Alicia Talerico for a sparkling evening of cocktails, great music, fantastic food, and wonderful auction items.

"Hollywood Nights" is the theme for our 2011 Treasures for TIHAN. Be a star and dress to impress the paparazzi! Arrive in style, walk on the red carpet, and have your picture taken as you enter the grand ballroom and take in our fabulous live and silent auction items.

Advance tickets for the event are \$65 each or two for \$120, and can be purchased online from our payment options page. Tickets purchased on the day of the event will be \$75. The value of food and services received in return for each ticket purchase is \$30.

TIHAN, Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network, is a volunteer-based, nonprofit organization focused on mobilizing the resources of faith communities to respond compassionately to those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and to promote awareness and the prevention of HIV/AIDS. For more information, contact TIHAN at (520) 299-6647 or scott@tihan.org.

Apple Removes Exodus 'Ex-Gay' App From iTunes

Continued from Page One

"But reparative therapy isn't just bad medicine - it's also very damaging to the self-esteem and mental health of its victims." Besen also claims the app specifically targets vulnerable gay youth. "In light of the recent wave of LGBT youth suicides, this tactic is particularly galling as it creates, legitimizes, and fuels the ostracism of LGBT youth by their families." Last year, Apple removed an anti-gay app after thousands signed onto a similar online petition.

Calling for friendly and reliable people to join SAAF's Client Services Team as volunteer Peer Counselors.

If you are interested in offering peer support to clients, educating on HIV/AIDS and more, contact Volunteer Resources at 628-7223 or volcoord@saafl.org

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



P.O. BOX 50733, TUCSON, AZ 85703 (520) 622-7176 (Voice)

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Observer on the World Wide Web : www.tucsonobserver.com E-Mail: info@tucsonobserver.com

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Bob Ellis
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



Donors Invest \$41,000 In LGBTQ Community Through Alliance Fund

TUCSON (Observer Update) - On behalf of donors, the LGBT-Straight Alliance Fund, in separate 2011 award events, invested \$26,300 in nine projects in its annual competitive grant round, and \$15,000 in six projects in the first year of the "Queer Youth Initiative".

The nine awards that community donors funded in the regular grant round included grants to the University of Arizona's Office of LGBTQ Affairs and to its Institute for LGBT Studies, and to Wingspan, the LGBT Behavioral Health Coalition, SAAF, SACASA, SAGA, VOICES, and the Tucson Jewish Community Center. Project descriptions are at www.alliancefund.org.

Donations to the Queer Youth Initiative, a joint Alliance Fund-Funders for LGBTQ Issues project, allowed grants to organizations committed to building a safety network for LGBTQ youth in Southern Arizona. The network, which focuses on efforts to provide LGBTQ kids with access to safe people, peers, places, programs, and communication lines, gave funding to Casa Libre en la Solana for its transgender program; to Wingspan's Anti-Violence Program for creation of rural safe-person networks and for a telephone "warm-line" for peer access; to SAAF for gate-keeper training on youth assistance and suicide prevention; to SACASA for a documentation system with Tucson authorities on places and incidents of bullying/harassment; and to Open Inn for safe housing for LGBTQ youth.

"The Queer Youth Initiative is an exciting new project and opportunity for our donors and us," said Doug

Noffsinger, head of the Alliance Fund. In a competitive national grant round, a national LGBTQ funding organization-Funders for LGBTQ Issues-chose the Alliance Fund as one of four agencies around the country to receive matching funds for projects that benefit LGBTQ youth. Particular focus is directed to youth of color, young women, transgender or gender non-conforming youth, low-income youth, and rural youth. Noffsinger continued that "The grants we just awarded are first steps by important LGBTQ agencies in Southern Arizona in creating true safety networks for LGBTQ kids, not only in Tucson, but areas throughout Southern Arizona. This has been a long-term dream for many of us. And the urgency of the need was heightened by the terrible toll exacted on LGBTQ kids in the last year."

"Although the Queer Youth Initiative is a matching-funds grant, donors in our community-LGBTQ and straight-stepped up immediately to match the first-year funds, and we are now heading into year two with an even bigger need. But the dream is realizable now, so we anticipate that our donors will help us achieve the match over the next years." To help members of the community who are interested in making life better for LGBTQ kids, the Alliance Fund website www.alliancefund.org now has an "interest survey" button that allows users to indicate their interest in helping LGBTQ youth, particularly those most desperate and isolated by circumstance.

The Community Foundation for Southern Arizona announced in January that legacy and endowment commitments from many in the community have been used to establish a legacy society called the 'Alliance Fund Sociedad Luz del Sol'. (Details from Lori Hoby, Executive Director for the Center for Planned Giving (lhoby@cfsoaz.org)). The fund insures long-term investments in the LGBTQ community by the Alliance Fund. The Alliance Fund in January also honored Barbara Brown at Habitat for Humanity for her long-time service in

support of the LGBT community in Southern Arizona. Before her development work at Habitat, Ms. Brown was an advisor to the Alliance Fund and many others in her staff role at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona. The Alliance Fund also joined as a charter member the Tucson Queer Strategic Project, an effort initiated by Linda Thomas, Program Director at Wingspan, to coordinate communication and action within the LGBTQ community in greater Tucson.

Playwright Lanford Wilson Dies At 73

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Pulitzer Prize-winning openly gay playwright Lanford Wilson died of pneumonia at the age of 73. Wilson is considered to have been one of the primary figures in the creation of New York's vibrant Off Broadway theater movement, Joe My God.com reported.

Mr. Wilson's work was first seen in such bohemian, downtown dens as Caffe Cino and Cafe LaMaMa E.T.C. His youthful colleagues included writers Sam Shepard, Leonard Melfi and Jean Claude van Itallie. In 1969, he became a founding member of the Circle Repertory Company, which became an influential Off-Broadway hothouse of talent during the 1970s. There, many of his most significant works debuted, including The Hot I Baltimore and Talley's Folly. Mr. Wilson won the Pulitzer Prize for the latter, the central and most famous play in his Talley Trilogy, which tracked the adventures of several generations of the same Missouri clan.



Wilson's Burn This is one of the best plays I've ever seen. And the short-lived 1975 TV version of Hot L Baltimore, which featured one of television's first gay couples, was fantastic despite its reputation as Norman Lear's only sitcom "failure."

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Pentgon Meets With DADT Repeal Advocates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

a commander's judgment of a unit's readiness, more than checking the box of a unit's training. ... But they were very careful not to make commitments. The more we pushed, the more they stuck to their talking points."

"Don't ask, don't tell" remains in effect until the President, Secretary of Defense, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff certify that the military is prepared to implement repeal, followed by a 60-day waiting period.

Officials said the Marine Corps is scheduled to complete implementation training by May 31, the Navy by June 1, and the Army and Air Force by mid-August.

Regarding benefits for same-sex military spouses, the groups in attendance pressed officials to devise solutions similar to those of government agencies such as the State Department, which has provided broader benefits to its employees under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that are not barred under the Defense of Marriage Act.

In the absence of sexual orientation nondiscrimination language in the Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) program, advocates pressed for a sensible and efficient mechanism for gay service members to report abuse. Officials have said that service members can report antigay harassment to a commander or to the Inspector General's office.

"But a young service member could be fairly intimidated to take a harassment complaint all the way to the IG," said a source. "We did discuss the idea that even though sexual orientation may not be explicitly contained within the MEO program, having the MEO serve as a resource for finding solutions for individuals suffering harassment could be an option. There has to be a way for service members to access a complaint process that they can navigate."

Advocates also recommended that the Pentagon consider creating a special discharge review board to handle what may be a large amount of former service members seeking to have their discharge statuses upgraded.

A source noted it's likely that Pentagon officials have met or will meet with anti-repeal groups as well to discuss implementation plans.

The following statement was released by the Pentagon after the meeting. DoD's Repeal Implementation Team held stakeholder outreach meetings last week to share information and hear any concerns and comments from organizations that represent current or former service members, families and the general public. The groups invited were largely the same ones who worked with the Comprehensive Review Working Group (CRWG), to help inform their final report in December.

TRAINING INFORMATION

All the services have begun training and expect to have it completed this summer. The services are training most members before deployment. They will provide training to those deployed as the opportunity presents itself, based on the type of unit and mission they have. If members do not receive training while deployed, they will be trained upon return. We'll provide commanders and experts in the field with the education and training tools to educate the force on what is expected in a post repeal environment. The training materials were developed based upon the CRWG's Support Plan for Implementation (SPI), and packaged in such a way to facilitate low bandwidth and non-traditional training settings and include slides, narration, vignettes and Q&A. The predominant form of teaching is by commanders and leaders, but the services are also using Mobile Training Teams, Chain Teaching and Computer-Based Training.

The decision to certify will be made by the SecDef/Chairman when they determine DoD is ready to make this change consistent with the standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruiting and retention of the Armed Forces, and that conditions have been met for all the services, commands and units.

Training the force is an essential component to ensuring implementation is consistent with these standards. However, certification by the secretary and the chairman does not require a hundred percent of the people to be trained. We're going to try to get to a high percentage of the units as quickly as we can.

Walmart Sorry For Censorship

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Walmart has issued an apology for censoring the word gay on its website in reviews of the just-released It Gets Better book by Dan Savage and Terry Miller.

A Walmart representative apologized for the blunder Wednesday on JoeMyGod. He added, "It was a systemic oversight, in which 'gay' was on a list of filtered words. Certainly it makes absolute sense

for you to include this word in your review. This is a no-brainer for us."

Mark King, who wrote an entry for the It Gets Better anthology giving advice to young people about enduring difficult adolescent years, said he made several attempts to leave a comment on Walmart.com about the book. His comments kept getting rejected until he removed the word gay, advocate.com.

Following the apology, King said

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Breakthrough On Immigration Rights?



WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - Described by one attorney as a "game changer" that could bring parity to LGBT individuals in the U.S. immigration system, two district immigration offices have recently decided to put on hold marriage-based green card applications in cases involving binational gay couples, reported advocate.com.

Newsweek/The Daily Beast reported that immigration offices in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. were putting green card applications and alien relative petitions involving married, binational gay couples on hold, effectively deferring potential deportation proceedings. The move comes just weeks after the Obama administration announced it would no longer defend Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act in several legal challenges against the 1996 law.

Whether the decisions reflect a broader policy change on the national level remains a matter of speculation. "We have not implemented any change in policy and intend to follow the president's directive to continue enforcing the law," USCIS press secretary Christopher Bentley told Newsweek/The Daily Beast.

That statement is identical to one sent to The Advocate from an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) spokeswoman regarding an ICE attorney's agreement with immigration attorney Lavi Soloway last week to adjourn deportation hearings in the case of Monica Alcota, an Argentine woman who married her American citizen spouse, Cristina Ojeda, last year in Connecticut (the couple lives in New York). Alcota and Ojeda are the first married gay couple to argue in court that a pending deportation should be suspended as a result of the Obama administration's February announcement regarding DOMA.

"For privacy reasons, we cannot comment on the specifics of this case without the individual's consent," ICE acting press secretary Barbara Gonzalez

Montana Anti-Gay Bill Pulled From Floor

HELENA (Observer Update) - A bill to overturn Missoula's anti-discrimination ordinance protecting gay people was pulled from the Senate floor due to lack of support, a Republican senator said, reported 365Gay.com.

The Senate Local Government Committee passed House Bill 516 and had been set for a vote before the full

continued in an e-mail response. "What I can tell you, however, is that it is not uncommon for ICE to agree to adjournments."

Soloway said he intends to file three more green card applications on behalf of married, gay binational clients in the near future—none of whom are currently in deportation proceedings nor reside in the districts that have gone on record in putting a hold on such applications. "What's happened around the country suggests that the policy is not limited to those district offices," Soloway said. "There's a strong indication that other districts either already are holding such cases in abeyance or will hold such cases in abeyance."

"This is not about enforcing DOMA," Soloway continued. "The question here is, What is the appropriate policy [for married binational gay couples] in the interim period when the law is subject to repeal and has been shown to be vulnerable to constitutional challenge in federal court?"

Soloway has repeatedly advised, however, that binational gay couples seek legal counsel prior to filing any marriage-based petition or green card application.

Over the past month, three Congressional representatives — Reps. Zoe Lofgren of California, and Jerrold Nadler and Joseph Crowley of New York, have all called on the administration to put on hold any deportation proceedings involving married, binational gay couples.

"Ultimately the DOMA law needs to be repealed," Crowley told The Advocate. "But what's paramount is that families need to be able to stay together."

Senate. But the measure was returned to the committee and chairman Sen. Jon Sonju of Kalispell said he doubts the bill will return to the Senate floor. Sonju said the measure did not have the support of a majority of the Senate and, after conferring with GOP leaders, he decided not to bring it to the floor. Sonju said he also factored in



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comments from Missoula legislators who said the local ordinance had not caused problems in the city.

Jamee Greer, a lobbyist for the Montana Human Rights Network and an opponent of the bill, said the news of the proposal being set aside was promising, but he said he would continue following the issue in case it resurfaces.

The proposal, sponsored by Republican Rep. Kristin Hansen of Havre, would stop Missoula and other cities from establishing their own criteria for protecting people from discrimination. Missoula's ordinance protects residents from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Civil Union Bills Make Way Through Delaware and Colorado Senates

DOVER (Observer Update) - Delaware took its first legislative step to give gay couples the same legal opportunities as married couples by introducing a civil union bill in the state Senate.

Sen. David P. Sokola (D-Newark North) and Rep. Melanie George (D-Bear) filed Senate Bill 30. The bill would grant gay couples the same medical and parenting rights as heterosexual couples.

Sokola said 27 Democrat and Republican delegates have signed the bill as co-sponsors, according to Delaware Online.

More than half the businesses in the Fortune 500 already grant benefits to gay couples. Sokola said Delaware is "playing catch-up."

Lisa Goodman, President of Delaware Equality, helped draft the bill and will work for its passage. "We want to protect and provide for those we love," she said in Delaware Online. "We believe that the law should protect us and our relationships."

Delaware Equality says that through the legislation "civil unions would be parallel, but not equal, to marriage," meaning out-of-state civil unions and same-sex marriages would be recognized in Delaware, but only as civil unions.

The organization was also responsible for a poll in early March that found 62 percent of voters favor allowing same-sex couples to form civil unions.

In related news, Colorado's state Senate approved civil union legislation during its second reading with a 55 percent vote, according to the Huffington Post. The Civil Unions Act would make civil unions eligible for public assistance benefits, give rights to visit one another in a correctional facility, and permit property inheritance, among other rights, but does not establish gay marriage rights in Colorado.

The bill will move onto the Republican-controlled House after one more vote in the Senate.

BUZZ - BUZZ - BUZZ - BUZZ - Sexual Orientation Chemical Found In Mice

LONDON (Observer Update) - Chinese scientists say that a chemical in mouse brains controls sexual orientation, according to a study in Nature.



Says the BBC: "Male mice bred without serotonin lose their preference for females The researchers say it is the first time that a neurotransmitter has been shown to play a role in sexual preference in mammals. Experts have warned about the dangers of drawing conclusions about human sexuality."

encountering females than unmodified males were. However, a preference for females could be 'restored' by injecting serotonin into the brain."

The BBC continued, "When just a male was introduced into the cage, the modified males were far more likely to mount the male and emit a 'mating call' normally given off when

Scientists say that because humans have been using Serotonin for years without an effect on sexual orientation, the finding is unlikely to be replicated in people.

Target Sues San Diego Gay Rights Group

SAN DIEGO (Observer Update) - Target Corp. is suing a San Diego pro-gay marriage group to get it to stop canvassing outside its San Diego County stores, alleging its activists are driving away customers, reported 365Gay.com.

least eight Target stores in the area have reported receiving more than a dozen complaints daily since canvassers started working outside their stores in October 2010. Target says the activists have refused to leave when asked politely and shown the company's policy prohibiting "expressive activity" on its property.

Rights advocates say the trial between Target and Canvass For A Cause that begins Friday could further strain relations with the gay and lesbian community after controversy over its \$150,000 donation to a business group backing a Minnesota Republican candidate opposed to gay marriage. Minnesota-based Target insists it remains committed to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and its lawsuit has nothing to do with the political agenda of the organization.

Canvass For A Cause director Tres Watson says Target wants to silence the 12,000-member group that formed in 2009 because it promotes gay marriage. "It's very David vs. Goliath," he said. "We understand they're the Goliath in the room. They've got all money in world to get us to stop talking about gay marriage."

"Our legal action was in no way related to the cause of the organization and was done so to be consistent with our long-standing policy of providing a distraction-free shopping experience by not permitting solicitors at our stores," the company said in a statement sent to The Associated Press. Target says it has taken similar action against a number of organizations representing a variety of causes. It alleges in the lawsuit that the San Diego group's activists harass customers by cornering them near its stores' front entrances and debating with them about their views on gay marriage.

Watson says volunteers are trained daily on being professional and polite and their aim is to educate the public about the rights of gays and lesbians. He says they have a right to work outside the stores and the courts have ruled in the past that shopping centers are today's public squares where freedom of speech should be allowed.

"We train our staff and volunteers very carefully in techniques in winning people over," he said. "When you're trying to persuade voters and reach out to the community with a message, there is no advantage to being aggressive."

The group says it canvasses at shopping malls, college campus and stores like Target to collect signatures and donations in support of a marriage. The corporation says at

Target was seen as an ally of the gay and lesbian community before it gave money to MN Forward, which supported Tom Emmer, who lost the governor's race to Democrat Mark Dayton.

Target later said it was sorry for the hurt feelings and tried to repair its public relations damage from the controversial donation. Target created a committee to help it better scrutinize decisions regarding financial donations.

The company also negotiated a deal with Lady Gaga to sell a special edition of her upcoming album in a partnership Gaga said was tied to their "reform," supporting the gay community and making up for past "mistakes." But the singer backed out a few weeks ago.



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Elizabeth Taylor, Screen Legend & Pioneering AIDS Activist Dies

LOS ANGELES (Observer Update) - Hollywood, the arts, the gay community and the world-at-large lost a true superstar. Elizabeth Taylor has died at the age of 79, reported 365Gay.com.

The legendary actress, known for iconic films such as National Velvet, Little Women, Father of the Bride, Suddenly Last Summer, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Giant, Cleopatra, Butterfield 8, BOOM! and Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? was also one the world's leading activists in the fight against AIDS well before it was popular or even considered safe to do so.

She passed away due to congestive heart failure, after years of fragile health.

Always a friend to gay people (she had long, lasting friendships with gay actors such as Montgomery Clift and Rock Hudson), when the AIDS epidemic besieged the community in the mid-1980s, Taylor took action. She testified in front of Congress as early as 1986, urging the U.S. Government and President Reagan to acknowledge the crisis and do something about it. Arguably, Taylor was one of the first and surely the boldest and most persistent champions in making the fight against AIDS a crucial, international, human cause that concerned all citizens. She was involved in the founding of AMFAR and her own Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation.

"I have to show up because it galvanizes people. [They] know . . . I'm not there to sell or gain anything. I'm there for the same reason they are: to get something done." The discovery of HIV/AIDS not only changed the world forever, but also the life and purpose of Dame Elizabeth Taylor. Elizabeth was the first person in the entertainment industry to stand up and take charge when few were willing to listen, and even fewer were willing to help. "Elizabeth did something when it required real courage," said Elton

John. Since then she has remained at the forefront of the battle against this disease, a loyalty that has earned her the name the "Joan of Arc of AIDS."

And yes, Elizabeth Taylor was synonymous with Hollywood glamour and drama. She was married oodles of times, and her appearance in films and real life always brought sparkle and unpredictability. And it brought accolades, as the NY Times obit states: In a career of more than 70 years and more than 50 films, she won two Academy Awards as best actress, for her performances as a call girl in "Butterfield 8" (in 1960) and as the acid-tongued Martha in "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" (in 1966). Mike Nichols, who directed her in "Virginia Woolf," said he considered her "one of the greatest cinema actresses."

But the woman was remarkable. Maggie the cat! Martha in "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" The marriages! The sense of humor! White Diamonds!!!

I actually met her when I was a kid. It was back in Virginia, when she was married to Senator John Warner and I was at a fundraiser in my hometown of Big Stone Gap, Virginia. My parents were Warner supporters, and I was about 5 years old and tagging along to a fundraiser for his campaign at a local restaurant, The Coach House. Liz made the rounds greeting and hugging fans in this little coal-mining town.

I wasn't even sure who she was at the time, but she was big, glowing, gorgeous (and large - she was a bit heavy at that time) and gracious. Then later that evening,

while snarfing down some fried chicken in the restaurant kicking, Liz choked on a chicken bone and was rushed to the local hospital. She was fine, but it made national news and put our little town on the map for about a day.

Yep, Elizabeth Taylor never did anything quietly. And a global



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community of movie-lovers and those affected by AIDS will always be thankful to her for that.

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Micky's Merkin Birthday Party At Woodys Last Friday Was A Lot Of Fun. Check These Photos And Laugh With The Crowd. PHoros by oavld



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Poet's Corner

ANIMAL HUSBAND-RY

by Ron Rose - Tucson

Like Mad Bulls, they maul their loving wives,
 Their hammering fists, destroying lives.
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Court: No Gay Marriages In CA During Appeal

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - A federal appeals court has refused to allow gay marriages to take place in California while it considers the constitutionality of the state's voter-approved ban, 365Gay.com reported.

California Attorney General Kamala Harris had joined gay marriage proponents in urging the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to lift a stay that had been placed on a lower court's ruling to strike down Proposition 8. Lawyers for two same-sex couples had sought again to lift the stay after the California Supreme Court recently said it would take at least until the end of the year to consider a legal question asked by the appeals court in the case.

They argued that the U.S. District Court ruling overturning the ban should be honored while the appeal, which they believe is unlikely to succeed, slowly make its way through the courts.

"We felt then, as we do now, that it is decidedly unjust and unreasonable to expect California's gay and lesbian couples to put their lives on hold and suffer daily discrimination ... while their U.S. District Court victory comes to its final conclusion," said Chad Griffin, board president of the American Foundation

for Equal Rights, in a statement.

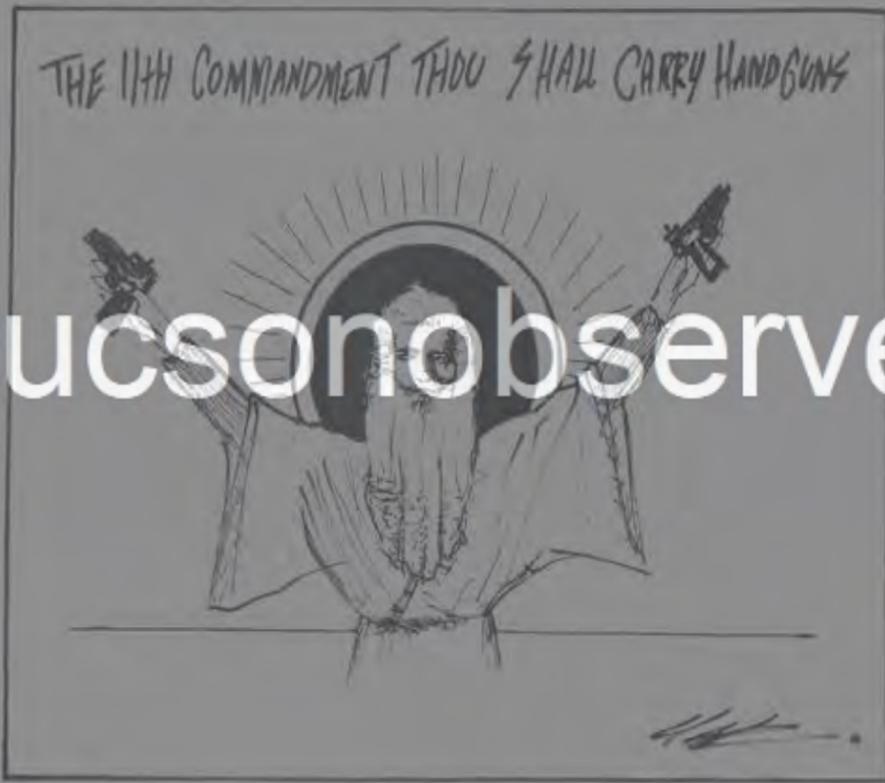
However, Proposition 8 supporters said the ban should stay in effect to honor the voters' wishes until the legal questions are settled. "The voters deserve for their votes to count even while the lawsuit is pending" said Andrew Pugno, general counsel for the Proposition 8 campaign. "Both sides are well aware that this issue will not be finally decided until it reaches the U.S. Supreme Court, and it helps no one for the law to shift back and forth prior to that time," he said.

In a letter to the court earlier this month, Harris said sponsors of Proposition 8 were unlikely to prevail in their appeal. Keeping it in effect, therefore, was a fruitless violation of gay Californians' civil rights, Harris said.

"The public interest weighs heavily against the government sanctioning such discrimination by permitting it to continue," she wrote.

Once the state's high court makes its decision, the case will resume in the 9th Circuit. Once a decision is rendered there, the case is expected to be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Way I Saw It. . .by Gary Clark



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!

Gay Leadership Grows At NAACP

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - More gay leaders and people of diverse racial backgrounds are being selected to lead the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as the venerable civil rights organization seeks to increase its membership and broaden its anti-discrimination agenda,

reported advocate.com.

The Associated Press reports on the new faces, the result of an "aggressive effort over the past four or five years" started under former chairman Julian Bond and accelerated under president Benjamin Todd Jealous, who has pushed for the organization to support gay rights. Paid membership has increased to 525,000 from a low of just below 300,000 within the past decade, and people under 25 are now the fastest-growing membership group.

"NAACP branches have been recruiting gays, immigrants and young people who grew up in a world far removed from the landmark 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education ruling that outlawed school segregation," reports the AP. "Now, leadership positions that were once held only by blacks are being filled by members of other racial or ethnic groups."

Some worry that the push for inclusion could distract from the NAACP's focus on African-American issues, but others argue that the broadened agenda returns the organization to the spirit of its 1909 founding by black and white activists.



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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Closed Sunday, Monday, Tuesday

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am - 8pm.

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. Beer specials and Trailer Trash Martini's All Day. Check our Ad for Special Events or Parties

MONDAY

THE BIZ - Closed Mondays

BRODIES - Open 10am-2am. Happy Hour 10am - 8pm.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 8pm.- 1am

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. Service Industry Night - Employee prices all day..

TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Closed Tuesdays

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am-8pm

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 4pm - 1am. Happy Hour 4-8. \$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. 2-4-1 Night

WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-9pm (2 for 1). College Night 18 & Over. Drink & Shot specials every half hour.

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am-8pm

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 4pm - 1am. 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.. 11pm - -close "Reverse Happy Hour".

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am;. Happy Hour Prices all day.

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-9pm. 2 for 1 All Night Long. Karaoke 9pm. Come out and play.

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am - 8pm.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 4pm.- 1am. Happy Hour 4 - 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; Free pool and Happy Hour prices all day.

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-9 pm (2 for1) Latino Night. \$2 Tequila, \$1.50 Tecate. \$5 Buckets of Beer.

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am-8pm. Karaoke 9pm.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 4pm. 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 vocals and piano stylings of Susan Artemis 6-9pm. Tori Steele Show 10pm

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am. \$10 and drink for pennies. All night long.

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am - 8pm.

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 OR two chicken tenders & fries. 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 \$1 Draft 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. .

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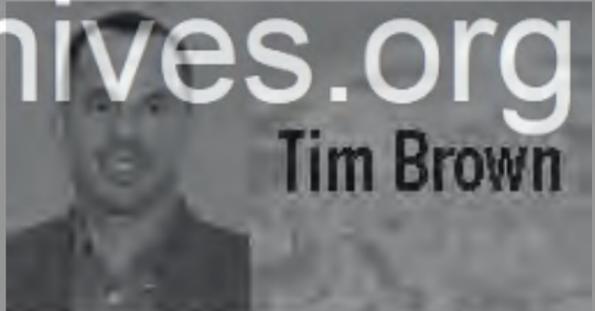


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EDITORIAL

BY JOHN CULHANE

Why Some States Still Call Gays Criminals

Laws do more than establish legal rules. Consider: The Kansas House Judiciary Committee is debating a bill intended to clean up the state's criminal code. An amendment to that bill would have done away with the law that bans consensual homosexual sex. But two Kansas Republicans -Jan Pauls and Lance Kinzer - removed that amendment from the law. The ban is unenforceable in light of the Supreme Court's ruling in Lawrence v. Texas, so why did they do it?

According to Kinzer: "It's a tempest in a teapot. I don't think it would make any difference. The statute is unenforceable." This leaves a question begging to be asked: If the statute has passed its sell-by date, why leave it on the books? After all, the whole project of the underlying bill is to do away with laws that are unclear, unenforceable, outmoded, and so on. Why single this one out as not worth the trouble of removing?

There can be only two reasons. The first is that the Supreme Court could, in theory, reverse itself and reestablish the right of states to enact laws criminalizing intimate sexual conduct between members of the same sex. This is never going to happen, though.

This brings me to the real reason: By keeping this law on the books, the lawmakers (and, by extension, the state) send the message that, as far as they're concerned, those who engage in such conduct are still criminals, even if they can't be punished. And for many, to call homosexuals criminals is an important vindication of their view that we are sinners.

Should we be concerned about this? Yes, in the same way that a constitutional question in Alabama in 2000 raised a similarly uncomfortable question. There, the voters were asked whether the state's unconstitutional law prohibiting interracial marriage should be repealed. Thankfully, the voters said yes.

But if they'd said no, that would have mattered, too - and not just because it would have been a national embarrassment. A negative vote would also have communicated a vile message from some Alabamans to others.

Indeed, those who opposed the change in Alabama sounded a lot like Rep. Kinzer. One Michael Chappell, speaking on behalf of a coalition of southern "heritage" groups, called the change unnecessary given that interracial couples can now marry in Alabama.

But then, lacking the political savvy to be satisfied with sending out a dog whistle to like-minded folks, he added: "Interracial marriage is bad for our Southern culture."

In short, labelling someone a lawbreaker is a significant speech act whether or not it can be translated into criminal sanctions. That's especially so for our community, given the long history of using language to stigmatize queer people, their sexual acts, and (by extension) their relationships. In fact, for centuries, the speech act was one of deliberate non-naming, as sodomy was declared "not fit to be named."

As Justice Kennedy memorably stated in Lawrence v. Texas: "When homosexual conduct is made criminal by the law of the State, that declaration

in and of itself is an invitation to subject homosexual persons to discrimination both in the public and in the private spheres."

This "invitation" can be extended beyond state borders, creating a climate that supports anti-gay actions elsewhere. I thought about what was going on in Kansas when I read about the bed and breakfast in a Washington, D.C. suburb (in Virginia) that refused accommodation to a married, same-sex couple. Since Virginia provides no anti-discrimination protection based on sexual orientation, the couple denied a room has no statutory recourse. (They might, though, have a common law claim: Traditionally, so-called "innkeepers" were not permitted to deny services to the public, absent a good reason for doing so. This might be worth looking into.)

Even assuming that the couple who run the establishment hold a deep religious belief against homosexuality, would they have felt emboldened to act on that belief without official expression that their beliefs are legally acceptable? Maybe, and I'm not suggesting that the owners even knew about the goings-on in Kansas. They were probably confident because Virginia law protects them.

But these events are more connected than we sometimes realize, helping to create an overall climate in which anti-LGBT discrimination is acceptable.

Counter-messaging is needed. To its credit, the Obama Administration is finally stepping forward boldly in this arena. First, by withdrawing from DOMA defense, then by hosting a summit on the effects of bullying (especially) on LGBT youth, and now by assuming leadership in pushing forward the United Nations Joint Statement calling for an end to "acts of violence and related human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity."

This is big stuff, and the right knows it. That's why the Family Research Council condemned the resolution. They, too, understand the power of such declarations, even when they're not enforceable: "[E]ven the U.N. admits that 'resolutions' like this one 'aren't legally binding,' [but] they do help to create a legal norm."

Yes, they do.

(John Culhane is Professor of Law and Director of the Health Law Institute at Widener University School of Law. This is reprinted from 365Gay.com.)

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