

## Court Orders Immediate Halt To DADT



SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - A federal appeals court ordered the U.S. government to immediately cease enforcing the longstanding ban on openly gay members of the military, reports the AP on 365Gay.com.

In a brief two-page order, a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco said the "don't ask, don't tell" policy must be lifted now that the Obama administration has concluded it's unconstitutional to treat gay Americans differently under the law. The ruling was the latest legal development in the effort by gay rights supporters to end the policy. It came in response to a motion brought by Log Cabin Republicans, a group for gay GOP members, which last year persuaded a lower court judge to declare the ban unconstitutional.

After the government appealed U.S. District Judge Virginia Phillips' decision, the 9th Circuit agreed to keep the policy in place until it could consider the matter. The appeals court reversed itself with by lifting its hold on Phillips' decision. "The circumstances and balance of hardships have changed, and (the government) can no longer satisfy the demanding standard for issuance of a stay," the panel said.

The appeals court noted that Congress repealed the policy in December and that the Pentagon is preparing to certify that it is ready to welcome gay military personnel. It was not immediately clear what effect the court's ruling would have on the timeline for eliminating the ban.

Dan Woods, the lawyer representing Log Cabin Republicans, said that unless the administration appeals the order to the U.S. Supreme Court, "don't ask, don't tell is over." He cautioned gay servicemembers against rushing to declare their sexual

orientations until the government declares that it intends to abide by the ruling.

The Pentagon has been moving carefully to implement the repeal of the 17-year-old ban on openly gay troops. Under the law passed and signed by the president in December, final implementation would go into effect 60 days after the president and his senior defense advisers certify that lifting the ban won't hurt troops' ability to fight.

## Six Atlanta Cops Dismissed For Gay Bar Raid

ATLANTA (Observer Update) - Back in 2009, the Atlanta Police Department raided a local gay bar, The Eagle, resulting in massive protests and a huge lawsuit that cost the city \$1 million.

Now, almost two years later, the APD has fired six police officers for lying about what went down that fateful night: A team of lawyers conducted an investigation into the incident and released a report last month saying that at least 10 officers lied and many deleted data from cell phones to hide their actions during the September 2009 raid.

Six officers were dismissed "for violating the department's truthfulness policy," police spokesman Carlos Campos said in a statement. Two other officers accused of lying had already been dismissed as a result of an unrelated internal investigation, Campos said, and Chief George Turner ordered that the charges against two others be withdrawn because there wasn't enough evidence they lied.

Nine other officers have been reprimanded for misconduct and three others have disciplinary hearing.

## Are We Looking For Deeds Or Symbols From Obama?

By James Withers

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Evan Wolfson has a perplexing editorial over at Politico.com. The founder and executive director of Freedom to Marry praises the Justice Department for its week old brief against DOMA.

"In a historic concession, the brief confesses the government's 'significant and regrettable role' in the sorry chronicle of anti-gay discrimination in America. In 31 pages of fidelity to constitutional values, the Justice Department details why marriage discrimination, like other forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation must stop."

Wolfson compares the wording used by Obama's Justice Department to briefs he wrote when working for Lambda Legal. He's pleased. Except for the president's public statements.

"Words matter - they are an important part of good leadership and good politics. The president should indeed speak up clearly on marriage, not just for the families, not just for fairness, not just for the cause - but for his own authenticity and ability to energize supporters. Being against marriage discrimination and inequality is not the same as being for the freedom to marry and equality- and that's where the president needs to be."

Wolfson acknowledges that

## Military Suspends DADT And Will Now Accept Openly Gay Recruits

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - The Pentagon announced that it is suspending its "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy of banning openly gay servicemen and women, reports advocate.com.

The Army Times reports that the Department of Defense will comply with a Ninth Circuit ruling that ordered the military to halt the policy. A memo obtained by Fox5 Atlanta, issued by the U.S. Undersecretary Of Defense For Personnel And Readiness, orders military leaders to comply with the ruling, and says that the Department of Defense will begin to "process applicants for enlistment or appointment without regard to sexual orientation."

"It remains the policy of the Department of Defense not to ask Service members or applicants about their sexual orientation, to treat all members with dignity and respect, and to ensure maintenance of good order and discipline," the memo said.

The announcement came after

"legally, the president and the Justice Department are doing the right thing." Yet, Obama's verbiage is behind the times. How phrasing would move the debate is never really discussed, outside of getting supporters all hyped and giving the president some authenticity glitter.

Having someone in the White House against "marriage discrimination and inequality" is now a problem. This is a rather novel moment for gay political culture. A few years back, our president wanted a Constitutional amendment barring same sex marriage across the land.

We now have a leader who, no matter how imperfectly, is not for inequality. His rhetoric comes up short. So we moan he hasn't evolved enough, no matter the actual changes on the ground (from DADT repeal to hospital visits).

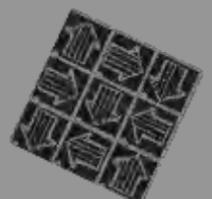
Will there be a time when we recognize the difference between allies and enemies? Obama is no different from any pol in the past. He needs to be harassed and cajoled to lead. Part of the democratic experiment. However, it says much about the "community's" political maturity that we trip over vocabulary, as opposed to what he actually does.

(Withers is a contributing editor for the 365Gay.com blog, from which this is reprinted from.)

the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals earlier in the week ordered the federal government to stop enforcing DADT, citing the government's recent opposition to policies like DOMA that discriminate based on sexuality.

In October a lower court ruled that DADT is unconstitutional, but after Congress in December voted to repeal the policy, the Ninth Circuit granted the government a stay so it could be repealed according to the military's own timeframe. The court lifted the stay on Wednesday.

The policy will be formally repealed 60 days after top military officials "certify" that it won't affect military readiness.



# UPDATE

## IN MEMORIAM

### Anti-Violence Programs Volunteer Advocate Training July 16-17

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Wingspan's Anti-Violence Programs operates a 24 hour crisis line for LGBTQA survivors of violence.

We need the communities' help to answer the calls and give out resources. During this two day training attendees will learn about the types of calls we get as well as ways to be an ally and support the LGBTQA community.

July 16th 9:00 am-4:00 pm and July 17th 9:00 am-1:00 pm. Volunteers will need to attend both days, to be held at Wingspan, 430 E. 7th St. Snacks and lunch will be provided. Contact Kristi Smith at ksmith@wingspan.org or (520) 624-1779 ext 119.

### G2H2 - Gays Guys Happy Hour July 15

TUCSON - G2H2, takes place the third Friday of every month in a new location around town each time and provides Tucson's gay professionals a different venue to meet, network or just hang out.

No programs, no dues, no charge. When: Fri, July 15, 5 - 8pm

Contact: Scott Stockholm; Phone: 520-403-9975; Email: sstockholm@msn.com; Web: g2h2tucson.com.

### City Of Tucson Commission On GLBT Issues Meeting July 19

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues will be meeting Tuesday, July 19, 5 to 7 pm, at the Ward 1 Council Office, 924 W. Alameda.

The mission of the Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues is to foster conditions that promote the welfare of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people of metropolitan Tucson, Arizona through education, advocacy and collaborative and advisory relationships with government, community organizations, businesses and individuals.

The City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues was originally formed in November 1998 as a mayoral task force, and became an independent city commission in July 1999. It remains one of the only government-sanctioned independent commissions on issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity in the United States. Since its founding, the Commission has initiated a number of projects and successfully advocated for issues of concern to the community. Among the Commission's accomplishments include:

Establishment of the City of Tucson Domestic Partnership Registry; Addition of gender identity to City civil rights protections; Development of the Recommended Standards of Practice for the Provision of Quality Health Care and Social Services for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Clients; Conducting a community survey on GLBT social Climate in Tucson.



Richard Keith Parker  
10/19/38 - 06/02/11

Richard K. Parker graced this world with his presence on October 19th, 1938 which lasted until June 2nd, 2011. His philosophy on life was to use up his body totally and to slide out of this world with a martini in one hand and a chocolate bar in the other: ôWhat A Ride!ö

He was known as Richard, Dick, and of course here in Tucson, ôMotherö. He was born in Bell, CA to Keith and Billie Parker, their only child. The family migrated to Mojave, CA when he was young and he resided there until he attended Whittier College. After college graduation he entered the hotel business for a short time (Los Angeles Biltmore). From there, he landed his first college recruiting position with May Co. of So. Calif. After several years he left retail but remained in college recruiting with the Fluor Corp. Then he was off to Hawaii for 14 years. On the Island of Oahu, he held various positions including college recruiting, human resources, and other organizational positions. However, he yearned to return to the Mainland. In 1997 he moved his mother and his former partner (Bert Insular) to Tucson where he resided until his death. In Tucson he worked for Raytheon for several years and for the past 7 years with the Citibank Call Center.

Richard had no immediate blood related family surviving him. However, he is survived by many friends whom he called ôfamilyö. His ôfamilyö resides all over the world with concentrations in Southern California, Hawaii, and Tucson. There will be a celebration of his fabulous life on July 23rd starting at 5:00 pm at the home of Frank & Scott, 5744 N. Calle De La Reina, Tucson. Music will be provided by Susan Artemis. Refreshments will be provided.

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

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# COMMENTARY...

by John Becker

## In His Own Words: How I Went Undercover At Bachmann's Clinic

The date was Thursday, June 30, 2011. I turned on the television and listened half-heartedly to the commercials as I busied about doing other things. All of a sudden I heard a voice saying, "Over the past few days, NBC News has learned how Republican presidential candidate Michele Bachmann and her family have benefited from the very government programs she denounces."

At the mention of Bachmann's name I stopped what I was doing and looked up. The speaker was the Rev. Al Sharpton, who was guest hosting The Ed Show. Rev. Sharpton continued talking about the counseling clinic run by Bachmann's husband: "As the Minnesota Independent reports, the clinic has been previously accused of engaging in reparative therapy, or treatment aimed at changing one's sexual orientation. Dr. Marcus Bachmann denies this..."

I chuckled when Rev. Sharpton said this. He won't be able to deny it for much longer, I thought. After all, I was watching this broadcast from a basement in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, having spent the previous eight days undercover in the Twin Cities receiving reparative therapy sessions at Marcus Bachmann's clinic.

The organization I work for, Truth Wins Out (TWO), fights anti-LGBT religious extremism and the "ex-gay" myth. We'd been receiving questions about the Bachmann clinic and reparative therapy for months, and

they only grew more intense after the June 13 GOP presidential debate in New Hampshire. Like everyone else, we were aware of the rumors and that no one had yet been able to independently verify them. TWO Executive Director Wayne Besen decided that we were going to obtain that verification: I was to go undercover to Bachmann & Associates in Lake Elmo, MN posing as someone seeking counseling for homosexuality, schedule as many appointments as I could, and document what went on during my appointments with hidden cameras.

When I called Bachmann & Associates to schedule my initial appointment, I told the receptionist who answered the phone that I was struggling with homosexuality. She referred me to Timothy Wiertzema, a counselor at the clinic, and scheduled me for a June 23 appointment.

I decided that the wisest course of action was to make my story fit as closely as possible to my own experience. Of course I'd have to embellish a bit and make a few things up, but it stood to reason that the closer the story I told was to the truth, the easier it would be for me to keep track of what I had said. After all, I was once a deeply-closeted teenage Catholic boy awakening to my own sexual orientation, terrified of what it might mean, too ashamed to tell anyone, and desperate to change it by any means necessary; although those memories are now far behind me, it was surprisingly easy to bring them back and put myself in a similar mental and emotional place.



Presidential candidate Michele and husband Dr. Marcus Bachmann

Still, I'd never done anything like this before. As the date of my departure grew nearer, my excitement and nervousness mounted. Could I pull it off? Would the cameras be well-hidden enough? Would they figure out what I was up to? What would we find? I packed my bags, made my social network profiles unsearchable, bid adieu to Michael, my husband of more than five years, and boarded a flight to Minneapolis to find out.

Preparing for my first visit was a surreal experience. I couldn't pay by check since my checks had my name, my husband's name, and a Vermont address. This meant I would be paying with cash and opening my wallet before each appointment, so I realized I'd have

to go through my wallet and remove or hide anything that would invite suspicion. My Human Rights Campaign credit card had to go, lest anyone recognize that organization's ubiquitous logo. I left our ACLU membership card behind as well. I also hid my out-of-state debit card and library card, and took the photo of Michael and me out of my wallet along with the copy of our marriage certificate that I always keep close. Despite the hot and humid Minnesota weather, I wore long pants to conceal a tattoo on my ankle of a pink triangle, the badge of gay prisoners in Nazi concentration camps and a symbol of the struggle for LGBT equality. At the last minute, in the

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# COMMENTARY....

by John Becker

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parking lot, I remembered that Michael's picture was set as the background image on my phone, so I hurriedly changed it. Finally, I took a deep breath and slipped off my wedding ring, placing it in a plastic bag inside my satchel, right next to one of the hidden cameras. My identity as a proud, openly gay, happily married LGBT rights activist was totally erased. I was ready.

The first session was introductory in nature. Wiertzema introduced himself as a licensed marriage and family therapist who enjoys working with men, adolescents, kids, and married couples. I spoke briefly about my experience and education in music, talked about my recent (fictitious) move to the Twin Cities from my home state of Wisconsin, and answered Wiertzema's detailed questions about my personal and family medical history, significant life events, religious background, etc. When asked why I came in for counseling, I said that I had been struggling with homosexuality for a long time and tried a lot of things, up to and including suicide, to make it go away - exactly how my 16-year-old self would have responded. I said that I was upset: this struggle has lasted for so long that I started to wonder if I was doing it right and decided to seek outside help. All of my sexual experiences, from age 14 onward, had been with men. What I wanted, though, was to get rid of my homosexuality and eventually marry a woman. Wiertzema asked if I had a support system, anyone who I could talk to about this. My response was that I hadn't spoken with anyone. We only had time to briefly touch on my first sexual experience before the session ended.

I felt strangely relieved as I walked to my car that evening. I was totally emotionally spent - inhabiting and conveying the role of a troubled, self-loathing man looking to change his sexual orientation was exhausting, and I missed Michael terribly - but at least I knew I could do it.

At the start of our second session I went straight to the point: what could I do? Would I ever be able to be completely rid of homosexuality, or merely learn to cope with and manage it? Wiertzema's response was that it's situational. Some people have been able to get rid of it completely over a long time period, others over a shorter time period. Still others are able to get it to "subside," down to a "manageable" level, but it's still there in the background. He asked me, "Are you okay with knowing that it might take awhile, and that it might not... maybe not happen at all? ...Obviously, it's not okay, in a way, but..." I said that I wanted to give it a go, that it was better to try than to not try.

Interestingly, this exchange was the only time during all of my sessions at Bachmann & Associates that Wiertzema or anyone else ever brought up the risk of this treatment failing. In later sessions he would say that he "...think[s] it's possible to be totally free of [same-sex attraction]. For sure." and that "it's happened! It really has happened to people." I was never told that every professional medical and mental health association rejects "ex-gay" therapy including the American Medical Association, American Psychological Association, American Psychiatric Association, and the American Counseling Association, or that the treatment I was seeking was totally unsupported by research. I was never informed about possible alternative treatment options such as gay-affirmative therapy. Nobody ever told me about the potential for harmful side effects like depression and suicidal thoughts. And although I was asked to sign a treatment plan outlining my problem, desired outcome, and treatment strategy, I was never given nor asked to sign any kind of informed consent document that disclosed the above information about "ex-gay" therapy. As such, I believe Bachmann & Associates to be practicing unethically, even by the standards of the American Association of Christian Counselors. This is particularly disconcerting given the fact that Marcus Bachmann's clinic has received significant funding from the State of Minnesota and the federal government.

In the second session, Wiertzema also began what amounted to an extended fishing expedition to find a "cause" for my homosexuality, asking me if I had experienced any physical, emotional, or sexual abuse. In later sessions we would turn again and again to my first sexual experience at age 14. He also insinuated that "there's maybe a feminine sort of tie" between my self-consciousness about my high speaking voice and my sexuality concerns and that I had somehow conditioned myself to respond sexually to male stimuli by masturbating to gay pornography. After I mentioned a (fictitious) memory of discovering a hidden stash of male pornographic images in the bedroom of a friend's older sibling, he said that this experience "obviously... had at least a little bit of a part" in the development of my homosexuality and asked, "What if you would have saw [sic] female pornography [instead]? Maybe you would be talking to me right now about your addiction to lust."

Despite the fact that I never once mentioned having insecurities surrounding my own masculinity, Wiertzema took it upon himself to reassure me in our fifth session that "...because you have feelings of homosexuality, [it] doesn't mean you don't have masculinity. I'm just gonna go ahead and say that." I was encouraged to further develop my own sense of masculinity and my personal definition of what it meant to be a man. When I mentioned that I can objectively acknowledge a woman's beauty without having any sexual feelings toward her whatsoever, I was told that whenever I saw an attractive woman I just needed to reinforce in my mind that she was, indeed, attractive, and that God made her this way and made me to notice her. After all, "God designed our eyes to be attracted to the woman's body, to be attracted to everything, to be attracted to her breasts." Further, according to Wiertzema, "We're all

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# COMMENTARY . . . .

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heterosexuals, but we have different challenges.” Attraction to the same sex “is there, and it’s real, but at the core value, in terms of how God created us, we’re all heterosexual.”

This faulty reasoning parroted the words of Dr. Joseph Nicolosi, the co-founder of the “ex-gay” organization known as the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH): “There is no such thing as a homosexual, just heterosexuals with a homosexual problem.”

Here are a few more highlights from my therapy sessions at Bachmann & Associates:

I was advised to find a heterosexual “accountability buddy” as I struggled to increase my attraction to women and decrease my attraction to men. I was to confide in, pray with, and be held accountable to this person.

Bachmann & Associates sells a book written by Twin Cities minister and self-proclaimed “ex-lesbian” Janet Boynes. This book chronicles her supposed journey “out of the lesbian lifestyle.” Next to the stack of books was a prominently displayed, typewritten note that read, “Janet is a friend. I recommend this book as she speaks to the heart of the matter and gives practical insights of truth to set people free. - Marcus Bachmann, PhD.”

I pretended to have just told my brother that I was seeking counseling to help me deal with homosexuality. My brother’s (fictitious) response was that I should just come out, because a person can be happy and gay and still go to heaven. My therapist said that my brother “didn’t choose his words wisely.”

I mentioned Marcus Bachmann’s by then well-publicized remarks calling gays “barbarians” who “need to be educated.” “Am I a barbarian?” I said through tears. Rather than contradict his boss’ words, Wiertzema opted to doubt the authenticity of the recording I had heard: “It sounds like... something that someone just did. It doesn’t sound accurate.”

Several sessions after asking for information about “ex-gay”-friendly churches, programs, and support groups, Wiertzema passed along a colleague’s referral to Outpost Ministries, a Robbinsdale, MN-based “founding member ministry” of the discredited “ex-gay” group Exodus International.

I mentioned the marriage equality ruling in New York and the possibility that some of my close gay friends might now get married. When I asked him for advice on whether or not I should attend any future same-sex weddings, he acknowledged that it was a tough and highly personal decision, but if he were in my situation he wouldn’t go - at least not without a heterosexual accountability buddy in tow. When I expressed concern for the well-being of my gay, soon-to-be-married friends’ eternal souls and asked if they could go to heaven, Wiertzema reassured me that indeed they could, “if they repent before the Lord and are right with God, later on.” When I sought clarification as to whether or not he meant they would need to turn away from homosexuality first, he responded in the affirmative.

Based on my experiences at Bachmann & Associates, there can no longer be any doubt that Marcus Bachmann’s state- and federally-funded clinic endorses and practices reparative therapy aimed at changing a gay person’s sexual orientation, despite the fact that such “therapy” is widely discredited by the scientific and medical communities. It’s time for Michele and Marcus Bachmann to stop denying, dodging, and stonewalling. They owe it to all Americans to provide a full and honest explanation for their embrace of these dangerous and fraudulent practices.

(John Becker is the communications and development director for Truth Wins Out, and this account was re-posted with permission from the organization. This commentary was reprinted from [advocate.com](http://advocate.com))

## As Few As Two States Would Absolutely Vote To Ban Gay Marriage, Civil Unions

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Twenty-nine states have constitutional amendments defining marriage as a heterosexual union, but voters in as few as two would absolutely approve one today, according to new analysis published in The New York Times, reports [ontopmag.com](http://ontopmag.com).

Statistician Nate Silver’s predictions on the percentage of the vote such a ballot initiative would receive is based on 34 nationwide ballot initiatives. Silver works the numbers from several angles; looking at amendments that ban all forms of recognition and those that only seek to ban gay marriage, and applying different rates of increasing approval for gay and lesbian unions.

In one of the four models - an amendment that bans all forms of recognition coupled with an accelerated rate of acceptance for gay unions - only voters in two states, Alabama (61.3%) and Mississippi (65.7%), would definitely approve a ballot initiative in 2012. Such an initiative is also favored to win in another 13 states, including Utah (50.2%), Kansas (51.2%), West Virginia (51.7%), Texas (52.5%), North Dakota (52.7%), Kentucky (53%), North Carolina (53.5%), Georgia (53.6%), Oklahoma (56.1%), Arkansas (58.2%), South Carolina (58.7%), Tennessee (58.7%), Louisiana (58.8%).

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The Tucson LGBT Museum (T.L.G.B.T.M.) cordially invites all LGBT related Tucson businesses, groups, individuals, and organizations to share their written histories, stories, photos, videos, memorabilia, and other historical items for inclusion into the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, Transgendered online historical exhibits. Exhibits to be shown are between the years 1700 to 2011 with the museum set to open up to the public later this year. The group has been collecting Tucson's LGBT history for 44 years in an effort that began in the summer of 1967 with a small group of 'sexually liberated' high school students from 2 local area schools.

Email: [TucsonLGBTMuseum@live.com](mailto:TucsonLGBTMuseum@live.com)

(Attn: Exhibits)

# Fox News: Gays Indoctrinating Your Kids



BEW YORK (Observer Update) - While Fox News has largely ignored recent debates over marriage equality, it hasn't suddenly become gay-friendly – it's merely focusing on a new target, what it calls "indoctrination" of children with positive information about LGBT people, according to an analysis by Equality Matters, reports advocate.com.

In a post on the media watchdog group's blog, Carlos Maza writes, "Over the past few months, Fox has developed a specific interest in promoting the myth that gays and lesbians are attempting to turn kids gay by indoctrinating them into the 'homosexual lifestyle.'"

He cites Fox's reaction to California legislation that would require public schools to teach students about the contributions of LGBT people, with Fox commentators calling the move a "shocking lesson plan" that would bring "propaganda" into the classroom. Fox talking heads, he notes, have also objected to a gender diversity lesson presented at one California school and gay-inclusive messages in advertising and entertainment. "In April, the network even invited the American Family Association's Bryan Fischer to discuss whether Glee was a form of 'product placement' for homosexuality," Maza writes.

This is all a rather stealthy form of gay bashing, he says. "By framing the debate in terms of concern about 'indoctrination' and parental rights, Fox is attempting to disguise its deep anti-LGBT bias as something more palatable to the general public," he writes. "In reality, Fox's 'indoctrination' focus feeds directly into the campaigns of some of the country's most prominent and vile anti-LGBT groups, including Focus on the Family, the Traditional Values Coalition, the Family Research Council, and the American Family Association."

## As Few As Two States

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That is, thirty-three states plus the District of Columbia would likely reject such a ballot initiative in 2012. That number, however, plummets to 15 when a more modest linear rate of approval is applied and the amendment only bans gay marriage.

For the record, Silver writes that the accelerated model "most accurately reflects current sentiment about marriage." The two states where voters are likely to see such a question next year fare very differently.

A proposed amendment in Minnesota, which only seeks to ban gay marriage, would likely fail under the accelerated rate but likely pass under the linear rate. However, both models predict likely passage for an anticipated amendment in North Carolina, which is expected to bar all forms of recognition.

Silver concludes: "The future of same-sex marriage looks to be reasonably bright. Most of the states that were fertile ground for passing a constitutional ban on it did so long ago. Minnesota and North Carolina are potential exceptions, but the six states that have gender-neutral marriage laws on the books now are unlikely to see them reversed, while some of those that don't are in a position for gay rights advocates to go on offense."

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BEFORE ————— AFTER

# Pro Athletes Using Gay Slurs And Being Contrite

PHILADELPHIA (Observer Update) - Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver DeSean Jackson issued an apology for using gay slurs during a radio interview late last month, reports towleroad.com.

"In a recent radio interview a caller got really confrontational with me. I got very heated with the caller, took it a bit too far and did not mean to offend anybody. I meant no disrespect and a better choice of words was needed," said Jackson, who had referred to the aforementioned caller as "gay ass" and "faggot."

The footballer also took to Twitter to express his regret, "I am sorry for using words that I know to be hurtful and unacceptable in a recent radio interview. Intolerance is unacceptable and I apologize to anyone I have offended."

"I have made a mistake and would like to make it clear that words I used meant no disrespect to the Gay and Lesbian community," he said.

Jackson is the second sports star to issue an apology this weekend for insensitive language: White Sox second baseman Gordon Beckham also offered his contrition for using "gay" as a pejorative.

# Attacked Gay Soldiers Can't Reveal Identities, Cite DADT

COLORADO SPRINGS (Observer Update) - Two gay soldiers were beaten in a suspected hate crime July 2 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The soldiers were at a fast food restaurant with friends after going out when they were confronted by a group of men who began harassing them with homophobic slurs, the Denver Channel reports. One victim suffered six bruised ribs; his right eye swelled shut for 10 hours. Another victim in the group had a facial fracture and his jaw had to be wired shut.

The victims, who are identified only as John and Ted, have chosen to remain anonymous due to Don't Ask Don't Tell. The ban will be lifted 60 days after of certification, which is expected this summer.

They fear their outing could lead to trouble in their military careers. Colorado Springs police Lt. Pat Rigdon said that if police decide the attack was a hate crime based on ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, they could charge the attackers with a hate crime.

# "Eliot" Writer Opera Back On After Homophobia Row

LONDON (Observer Update) - The latest show from "Billy Elliot" playwright Lee Hall will go on after all, advocate.com reports.

A dispute over words spoken by a gay character had threatened to derail his new project - a community opera involving 300 children - but officials said Thursday a compromise had been reached. "We are delighted to announce that the revisions which the school requested have now been made and the author has addressed the points raised by the school," the statement said. "The final libretto is now an age appropriate text which was all the school had requested."

The opera opens July 16 in Bridlington, northeast England. Education officials had said the school involved removed 300 pupils due to appear in the production because of offensive and derogatory language, and Hall had accused the school of having dated and homophobic views.

The writer said he had refused to remove the lines "Of course I'm queer" and "I prefer a lad to a lass" from the opera "Beached," the story of an eventful day at the seaside set to music by composer Harvey Brough. The council said that the word "queer" had been replaced with "gay." The revisions to the script were made following "intense negotiations behind the scenes with all parties," the school and council said in a joint statement.

The two said Hall had addressed concerns over some of the language and tone related to the gay character's identity - and denied claims the changes were requested out of homophobia.

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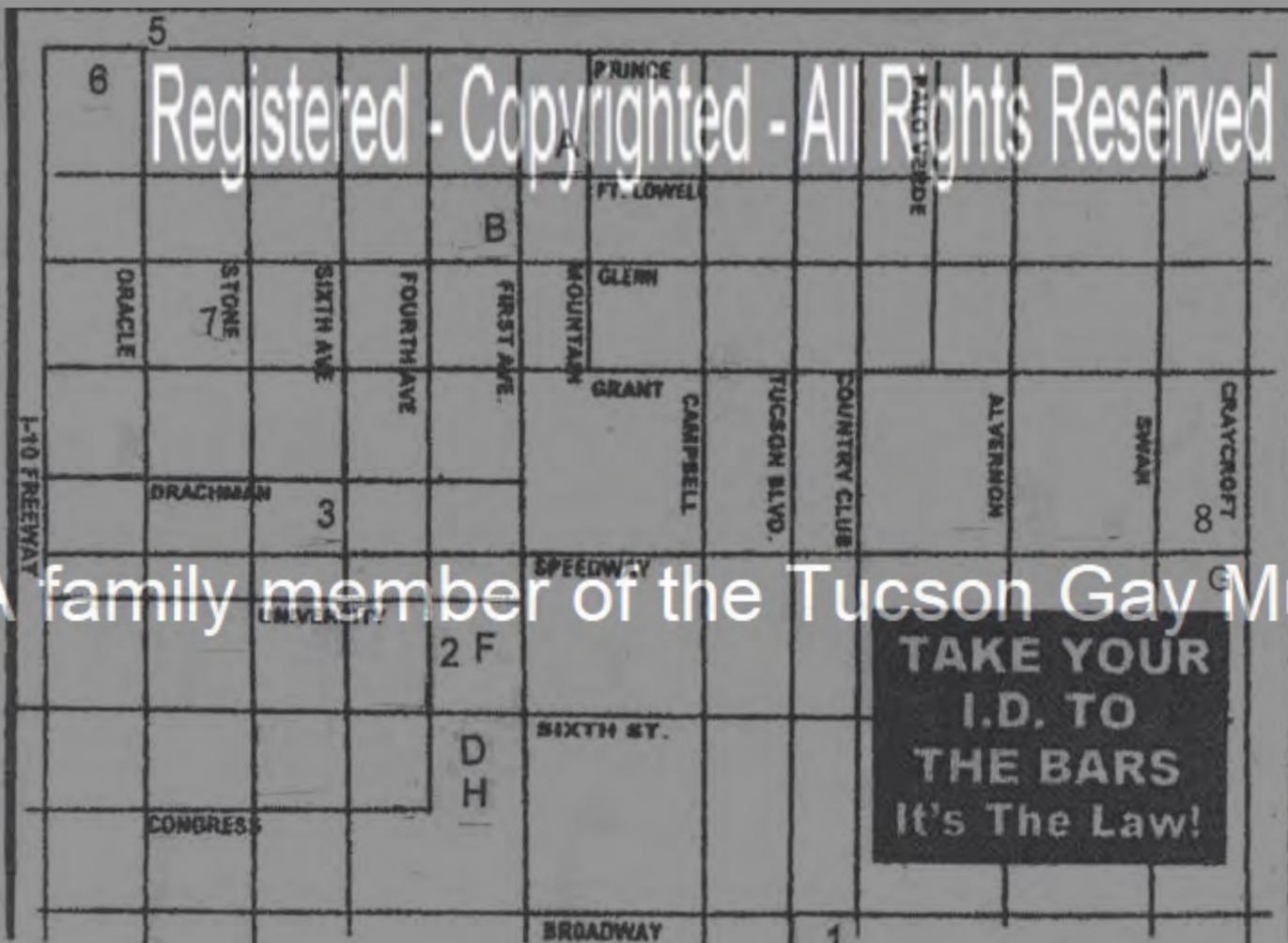
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# GOP Candidate Gary Johnson Blasts "Offensive" Anti-Gay Pledge



Gary Johnson

claims black children were better off in 1860, slave days, and that homosexuality is a choice.

But Gary Johnson, a libertarian Republican candidate, refuses to follow suit, and yesterday described the document as "offensive to the principles of liberty and freedom on which this country was founded."

"The Republican Party cannot be sidetracked into discussing these morally judgmental issues," said Johnson, a former New Mexico governor who supports marijuana legalization and civil unions.

Johnson continued, "While the Family Leader pledge covers just about every other so-called virtue they can think of, the one that is conspicuously missing is tolerance. In one concise document, they manage to condemn gays, single parents, single individuals, divorcees, Muslims, gays in the military, unmarried couples, women who choose to have abortions, and everyone else who doesn't fit in a Norman Rockwell painting." The governor also insists, "This type of rhetoric is what gives Republicans a bad name." And he's right.

DES MOINES (Observer Update) - Iowa-based conservative group The Family Leader last week asked Republican presidential candidates to sign a document that pledges opposition to marriage equality, infidelity and Sharia law, reports towleroad.com.

It's an absolutely unnecessary and offensive covenant, yet at least two GOP presidential hopefuls, Michele Bachmann and Rick Santorum, have already signed onto the vow, which also

# Landmark Gay History Bill Goes To California Governor

SACRAMENTO (Observer Update) - California lawmakers sent the governor a bill that would make the state the first requiring public schools to include the contributions of gays and lesbians in social studies curriculum, reports advocate.com.

The bill, passed on a party-line vote, adds lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people as well as people with disabilities to the list of groups that schools must include in the lessons. It also would prohibit material that reflects adversely on gays.

Democratic Assemblyman Tom Ammiano of San Francisco says SB48 is crucial because of the bullying that happens to gay students. Republicans called it a well-intentioned but ill-conceived bill and raised concerns that it would indoctrinate children to accept homosexuality.

"This bill will require California schools to present a more accurate and nuanced view of American history in our social science curriculum by recognizing the accomplishments of groups that are not often recognized," said Assembly Speaker John Perez, the first openly gay speaker of the California Assembly.

The bill now goes to Gov. Jerry Brown, a Democrat, who has not said whether he would sign it. Former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed a similar bill in 2006. Assemblyman Tim Donnelly, a Republican from Twin Peaks, said he was offended as a Christian that the bill was being used to promote a "homosexual agenda" in public schools.

"I think it's one thing to say that we should be tolerant," Donnelly said. "It is something else altogether to say that my children are going to be taught that this lifestyle is good."

California law already requires schools to teach about women, African Americans, Mexican Americans, entrepreneurs, Asian Americans, European Americans, American Indians and labor. The Legislature over the years also has prescribed specific lessons about the Irish potato famine and the Holocaust, among other topics.

SB48 would require, as soon as the 2013-2014 school year, the California Board of Education and local school districts to adopt textbooks and other teaching materials that cover the contributions and roles of sexual minorities.



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# Poet's Corner

THE U.S.S. DEMOCRACY

BY Ron Rose - Tucson

The U.S.S. Democracy slips slowly out to sea,  
 Who would have thought she'd be attacked by our own G.O.P.  
 Her hull, she's showing signs of age, barnacle encrusted,  
 Her prop wont get her anywhere, it's rusted, rusted, busted.  
 Wars, depleted revenues, left gaping holes to plug.  
 Tax breaks for the favored rich, while we're all seeing red.  
 Gays with partners needing help, not allowed to wed.  
 And so our nation's leader, called all hands on deck  
 Before our sleeping congress, caused another wreck.  
 Deficit reduction, fair taxes please, for all,  
 No private jets, no sleek corvettes, barriers must fall.  
 And jobs, we need to keep 'em, in the good old USA  
 Let's get a grip, and save our ship, please Congress, don't delay.



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### The Way I Saw It. . .by Gary Clark

tucsonobserverarchives.org



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!

### Man Accused Of Killing 4-Year-Old 'Gay' Boy, Woman

DURHAM (Observer Update) - Peter Lucas Moses is accused of murdering a 4-year-old boy he perceived to be gay, WRAL reported.

Prosecutors say they'll seek the death penalty for Moses, who faces first-degree murder charges in the deaths of 28-year-old Antoinetta Yvonne McKoy and Jadon Higganbothan, 4.



Moses, 27, prosecutors say, led a "religious" group of five women and nine homeschooled children, all of whom lived with Moses, who fathered all of the children except for Jadon, reports ontopmag.com.

barren and wanted to leave the group. One of the women escaped the house and told police that the remaining three women encouraged Moses to kill McKoy because they feared him going to jail. The three women also face first-degree murder charges in McKoy's death and as accessories to murder in Jadon's death.

Vania Rae Sisk, 25, had been told by Moses to "get rid" of her son, who Moses feared might be gay because his father had left Sisk. Moses, it is alleged, became angry last October when he found out that Jadon had hit another child's bottom. He ordered the women to set up computers and speakers in the garage, then took Jadon in the garage and shut the door. With religious music playing, the women heard a gunshot.

He is accused of killing McKoy in December after he learned she was



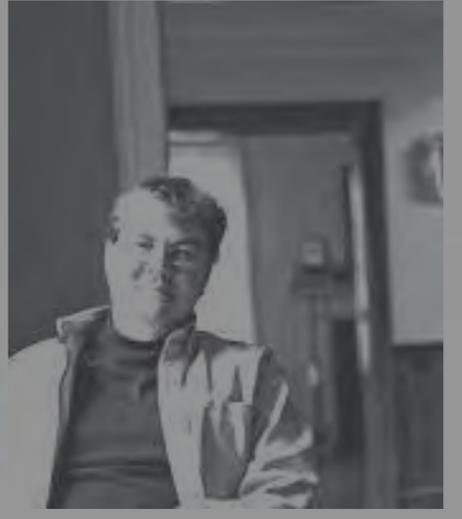
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Email: Tucson LGBT Museum@live.com

### Openly Lesbian Veteran Brenda 'Sue' Fulton Appointed To West Point Advisory Board

WEST POINT (Observer Update) - An openly gay co-founder of Knights Out, Brenda S. 'Sue' Fulton, has been named to the Board of Visitors of the United States Military Academy, ontopmag.com reports.



The board advises President Barack Obama on the West Point military academy. Fulton's appointment was announced in a White House press release. Her presidential appointment does not require Senate confirmation. The 52-year-old Army veteran heavily lobbied for repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the 1993 law that bars gay and bisexual troops from serving openly.

In addition to serving as the executive director of Knights Out, an organization of LGBT West Point graduates and allies, she's also a founding board members of OutServe, the nascent group dedicated to LGBT people serving in the military. She graduated from West Point in 1980 and currently lives in New Jersey.

ize to all people gay and straight that anti-gay bias in the military is a thing of the past," Fulton told The Wall Street Journal of her appointment. "I would hope it would tell them that if you're willing to serve your country and you're qualified, other factors don't matter. I see my role as in some sense helping West point send that message - that we respect all people equally. That's part of our values, that's part of our code."

"I would hope it would symbol-

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# Daily Bar Calendar

## SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Closed Sunday, Monday, Tuesday  
 BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am-8pm  
 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.  
 NEW MOON - Open 4pm. Happy Hour 4-8 = \$2 well, dom longnecks, dom pints, or New Moon shots. Kitchen open 5-9pm. Check our calendar for special events.  
 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  
 BRODIES - Open 10am-2am. Happy Hour 10am-8  
 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".  
 NEW MOON - Closed Mondays  
 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.  
 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic Beer. 8pm-close "2'sDay" - \$2 Well or Domestic Beer. DJ 9pm-close.  
 NEW MOON - Open 4pm. \$2 well, dom. Long necks, pints New Moon Shots. Kitchen open 5-9. Women's Texas Hold 'em poker 6pm. Karaoke 8pm.  
 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.  
 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic..11pm - -close "Reverse Happy Hour".  
 NEW MOON - Open 4pm. \$2 well, dom. Long necks, pints New Moon Shots. Kitchen open 5-9. \$2 off appetizer menu items\* with drink purchase (priced \$4 or higher).  
 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.  
 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.  
 NEW MOON - Open 4pm. \$2 well, dom. Long necks, pints New Moon Shots. Kitchen open 5-9. Free Nachos 5-7. New Babies Drag Show 8pm. Check out the new talent!  
 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.  
 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.  
 NEW MOON - Open 4pm. \$2 well, dom. Long necks, pints New Moon Shots. Kitchen open 5-9. Women's Texas Hold 'em poker 6pm. Karaoke 8pm. First and Third Fridays are country, with dance lessons at 7pm and country DJ 8:30.  
 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 styling 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.  
 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. 5-8pm Karaoke on the patio \$1Draft Pints. 9pm "Saturday Starrlett's" w/ Bunny FuFu & Janee Starr. After the show, DJ Spinning inside & 10pm-close, DJ Mike Lopez with the "Party on the Patio".  
 NEW MOON - Open 4pm. \$2 well, dom. Long necks, pints New Moon Shots. Kitchen open 5-9. Cheeseburger & Fries \$5.  
 WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm. .

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# Tom Pawlenty Suggests Being Gay Is A Choice

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - Former Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty has suggested that being is a choice. The 50-year-old candidate for the 2012 GOP presidential nomination objects to gay marriage and giving gay and lesbian couples the same benefits as married couples, reports ontopmag.com.



Gov. Tim Pawlenty

Earlier this year, Pawlenty created controversy when he said as president he would work to reinstate "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the 1993 law that bans gay and bisexual troops from serving openly. And during last month's presidential debate, he said he supports a federal amendment banning gay marriage.

scientists work on that and try to figure out if it's behavior or if it's partly genetic ... "What do you think?" Gregory interrupted. "Well, I defer to the scientists in that regard." "So you think it's not a choice? That you are, as Lady Gaga says, you're born that way," Gregory asked.

Pawlenty shocked when he praised Lady Gaga, telling reporters that her gay anthem Born This Way was among his favorites. The pop star has been criticized by social conservatives for her strong support of gay rights. During an appearance on Meet the Press, host David Gregory asked Pawlenty if he believes sexual orientation is a choice.

"There's no scientific conclusion that it's genetic," Pawlenty answered. "We don't know that." Commenting on Pawlenty's remarks, progressive blog ThinkProgress.org wrote: "All major medical professional organizations agree that sexual orientation is not a choice and cannot be changed, from gay to straight or otherwise."

"Is being gay a choice?" Gregory asked after referring to his earlier praise of Lady Gaga. "Well, the science in that regard is in dispute," he responded. "I mean,

We would add that the only organizations suggesting that the evidence is inconclusive are anti-gay groups.

# Rhode Island Gay Marriage Backers Vow To Return Next Year



PROVIDENCE Just days after Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee signed a civil unions bill into law, backers of full marriage for gay and lesbian couples have vowed to return next year, reported ontopmag.com.

unions after it became clear a marriage bill would not clear the Republican-controlled Senate. Gay rights groups say they object to an amendment sponsored by Rep. Arthur J. Corvese that exempts religious organizations from the requirement that they treat gay couples in a civil union as they would any other married couple, and add that civil unions are not equal to marriage.

Chafee signed the civil unions bill into law, making Rhode Island the fifth after Illinois, New Jersey, Delaware and Hawaii to recognize gay couples with civil unions.

Ray Sullivan, campaign director for the group Marriage Equality Rhode Island, told the Associated Press that the fight will continue next year, and that his group plans to make marriage equality a key issue in the 2012 elections.

The governor, who supports giving gay couples the right to marry, expressed reservations about the law's limited benefits but added that it would protect thousands of families, saying that the legislation "brings tangible rights and benefits to thousands of Rhode Islanders" and that it "provides a foundation from which we will continue to fight for full marriage equality."

Lawmakers shifted from supporting a gay marriage law to civil



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