

Tucson Observer Archives

Same-Sex Marriage Faces Military Limits

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - With the military's ban on openly gay troops expected to end this fall, advocates for gay and lesbian service members are already looking ahead to the next battle: winning equal benefits for same-sex married couples, the New York Times reported.

Under current law, particularly the Defense of Marriage Act, the Pentagon is prohibited from giving federally financed benefits to same-sex married couples. In the military, those benefits include base housing and allowances for off-base housing, health insurance, certain death benefits, legal counseling and access to base commissaries and other stores.

No one knows how many same-sex married couples are currently in the military, since existing policy, known as "don't ask, don't tell," prohibits openly gay people from serving. The number, however, is thought to be small, perhaps in the hundreds.

But with the final repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" in the coming months – and with the recent legalization of same-sex marriage in New York and the possibility of other states' following suit – many advocates expect the number of gay and lesbian married couples in the military to rise significantly.

As those numbers grow, unequal treatment of same-sex married couples will become a source of resentment and poor morale, advocates for gay troops assert.

"What's pretty obvious is that there is going to be a collision soon between an open and integrated military and a federal law that prevents what I consider unit cohesion," said Rick Jacobs, chairman and founder of the Courage Campaign, an advocacy group for gay men and lesbians in the military. "You will have different people treated very differently."

But Elaine Donnelly, whose policy organization, the Center for Military Readiness, is opposed to ending the ban on openly gay troops, said extending equal benefits to same-sex couples would be not just costly but also offensive to some heterosexual couples. "These are things Congress should have considered last year before they voted to repeal the policy," said Ms. Donnelly, the center's president.

Eileen Lainez, a spokeswoman for the Pentagon, said the department was studying whether smaller benefits, like free legal services, could be extended to same-sex spouses. But she said there would be "no change" in eligibility for major benefits like housing and health care when "don't ask, don't tell" goes away.

"The Defense of Marriage Act and the existing definition of 'dependent' in some laws prohibit extension of

many military benefits to same-sex couples," she said.

With Republicans in control of the House of Representatives, advocates for gays in the military said the courts might be their best venue for equalizing benefits. "It may take some time," said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, which advocates for gay and lesbian troops.

Unequal benefits for same-sex married couples is one of several thorny issues facing the Pentagon as it enters the final phase of repealing "don't ask, don't tell," which has been policy since 1993. Among other issues likely to arise in the coming months are how the Pentagon will handle harassment complaints from gay or lesbian troops and whether it will allow openly transgender people to serve.

For months, the armed services have been using PowerPoint presentations to prepare troops at all levels for dealing with openly gay colleagues.

One scenario in a Marine Corps training presentation, for instance, asks how an officer should respond if he or she spots a gay military couple in civilian clothes kissing in the food court of a mall. (The answer: a "sexual-orientation neutral" response that treats the gay couple the same as a heterosexual couple.)

Most troops have now received such training, and last week the chiefs of the armed services sent progress reports on repeal to Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta. He and President Obama, as well as Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will use those assessments to determine whether the military is able to repeal the ban without losing its effectiveness. Once that certification is sent to Congress, the ban will be lifted after 60 days.

One currently serving Army officer who married her same-sex partner in Massachusetts said the end of the ban would provide a huge emotional release, allowing her for the first time to talk to her fellow soldiers about her wife and two children.

But she also considers it unfair that her wife will be unable to receive health or dental care on her base, buy life insurance subsidized by the military or shop at the base commissary, grocery store and gas station, where goods are typically cheaper.

Their family, however, will be eligible for base housing because they have dependent children. But same-sex married couples without children will probably not get such housing, experts say.

"I want to be like everyone else," the officer said. "I don't think my family should be entitled to anything less than the people I've served with

Hate Crimes Increase In 2010



WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - Hate crimes towards the LGBTQ community increased last year, with murders at the second-highest rate this decade, according to a report by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, reported 365Gay.com.

In 2010 there were 27 anti-LGBTQ murders, second only to 2008, with 29 murders. There were more than 2,500 survivors of hate crimes, an increase compared to 2009 but flat compared to 2008. Gay, non-transgender men made up nearly half of all surviving victims of hate crimes, followed by lesbians at 26 percent, heterosexuals at 10 percent, and bisexuals at 8.9 percent.

Per person, those who are both transgender and of color have the highest rate of hate crimes and police apathy. People within this dual-minority

here and overseas."

Mr. Sarvis said that in addition to the Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibits the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriage, another law governing military benefits also contains language that prohibits extension of benefits to same-sex spouses. That means that even if the Defense of Marriage Act, which is being challenged in federal courts, is struck down, Congress will still have to amend another law to allow equal benefits for same-sex married couples.

That process, he said, could take years. But he predicted that military commanders would support the change.

"I don't think that commanders are going to be comfortable with this inequity," he said. "Commanders historically have taken great pride that all of their service members are treated the same with respect to basic pay and benefits."

The Obama administration has

were nearly 2.5 times more likely to face discrimination or assault, the report states.

For transgender people of color who reported crimes to police, nearly half said police were indifferent. Police were also more likely to arrest offenders when the victims were gay, non-transgender men.

Most offenders are between the ages of 19 and 39, and 41 percent are white, 35 percent are black and 15 percent are Latino/a.

The report spans 79 pages and highlights the rate of hate crimes for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV-affected communities (LGBTQH). It also offers brief recommendation on the local, state and federal level to reduce hate crimes and protect LGBTQH minorities.

said it will not defend the Defense of Marriage Act in court and issued a brief recently saying it considered the law unconstitutional.

Kristen Kavanaugh, a 2002 graduate of the Naval Academy, said she served in the Marine Corps for five years before voluntarily deciding to leave the military because she no longer wanted to lie about being a lesbian. She received an honorable discharge and is now attending graduate school at the University of Southern California.

Ms. Kavanaugh, 31, said she was considering rejoining the military so that she could counsel troops with post-traumatic stress disorder and other deployment-related problems. But she is also planning on marrying her partner – and the ability to receive equal benefits may determine whether she joins up again.

"I'm 75 percent there for joining," she said. "It will come down to the benefit issues. That's important to my partner."

UPDATE

Desert Voices Weekly Rehearsals

TUCSON (Observer Update) - For those interested, Desert Voices has their weekly rehearsals on Monday's, 7 to 9 p.m., at Water of Life MCC, 3269 N Mountain Ave.

Desert Voices is Tucson's GLBT/SATB chorus.

For more information, Contact: Rebecca Cohen, Office Manager, Phone: 520-791-9662.

RainbowCONNECT Operator Training Aug. 6

TUCSON (Observer Update) - RainbowCONNECT is the new warm line for LGBT youth to discuss how bullying and other forms of violence affect their lives. This is a community response developed due to increased incidents of anti-LGBT bullying and harassment happening in our community.

RainbowCONNECT is operational Monday through Saturday from 3:00 pm-8:00 pm. Youth are encouraged to utilize this line to talk to an operator that can offer support, resources, and information. Training for RainbowCONNECT, will take place August 6th, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Wingspan, 430 East Seventh Street.

The toll free number for RainbowCONNECT is 1-855-805-1991. Want to be a warm line operator and help youth in your community? This training will teach you how. Snacks and Lunch provided. Contact Kristi Smith at ksmith@wingspan.org or (520) 624-1779 ext 119.

EON Youth Fridays

UCSON (Observer Update) - Eon Youth Fridays, takes place next on July 22, 5-8pm, at Wingspan, 430 E 7th St.

See the Eon Calendar on the Wingspan website (wingspan.org) for specific happenings.

Special Nights - Cafe Chat: Open Mic/Spoken Word/Singing/Poetry Social Event with Coffee and Cool Kids Theme Party: Youth planned and organized theme parties at the Lounge. Club Eon/Gender Bender Show: This is a chance for everyone to strut your stuff in a safe, sober, and comfortable environment. Fierce Living: Every 3rd Friday of the month there is a wellness workshop on keeping the mind, body, and spirit healthy and fierce.

For more information, Contact: Zami Hyemingway, Phone: 520-624-1779.

Bears Beer Bust and Chili Feed

TUCSON - Join the Bears of the Old Pueblo for their Beer Bust benefiting local charities at The Venture-N, 1239 N. 6th, Saturday, July 23, from 3 to 7 pm. The fine folks at the Venture-N are offering \$1 drafts, \$2.50 pitchers of soda or beer, as well as bowls of our famous homemade chili.

Best of all, 100 percent of the proceeds go straight to the Homeless LGBT Youth Programs of Wingspan & Open Inn!

Join us for a great afternoon on the Venture-N's patio and enjoy some tasty beverages, jumpin' tunes and friendly bruins all while benefiting your community!

Reveille Man's Chorus Open Rehearsal July 25

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Do you enjoy singing in the shower? When you belt-out karaoke, do people actually stay in the room? Then Reveille wants YOU!

When: Mon, July 25, 7 - 10pm. Where: Rincon Congregational Church, 122 N Craycroft.

Auditions are a very simple process of checking each individual's voice placement within the chorus, as a Bass, Baritone, Tenor II or Tenor I. They are open throughout the year and can be taken at any regular rehearsal.

For more information, Contact: Shawn Cullen, Director, Phone: 520-304-1758.

Active Duty Troops March In San Diego Gay Pride

SAN DIEGO (Observer Update) - History was made at San Diego's gay pride, where an estimated 200 active duty servicemen and women and veterans marched alongside their LGBT peers, reports towleroad.com.

Waving American and gay pride flags, the troops broke came out in force to show their opposition to Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and may be the first active members to publicly marched in the annual LGBT event.

Many of the active-duty troops said they were moved to come out because it is time to end the military's ban on openly gay troops...

National Guard member Nichole Herrera, 31, said she didn't think twice about marching, even though the policy is back on the books. She said she was "choked up" several times as she walked down a main thoroughfare in San Diego, a major Navy port. "This is one of the proudest days in my life. It's time for it (the policy) to be gone," Herrera said. "I'm a soldier no matter what, regardless of my sexual orientation."

Every branch of service was represented, including the Coast Guard. Marines and sailors ran out carrying their branch's flags over their heads.

As could be expected, the crowd went wild for the military men and women, especially former military police officer Miranda LeClair, who held a sign reading, "Proudly served in silence for nine years."

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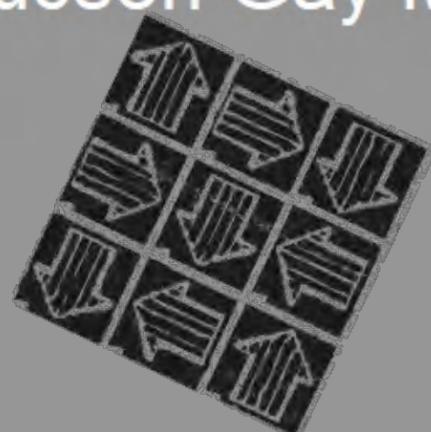
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Informing the Community
The Observer



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Court Continues To Block DADT Discharges

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled to temporarily reinstate "don't ask, don't tell," though it continues, for now, to block the government from "investigating, penalizing, or discharging anyone from the military pursuant" to the policy, reports advocate.com.

members: the ability to exercise their best judgment about the nature and pace of the transition, so as to ensure that the transition is—and is understood by men and women in uniform to be—the product of the military's own, informed choices ... rather than the product of a judicial order," the Justice Department argued.

The Justice Department had asked the court to reconsider its July 6 order barring all enforcement of DADT — a move by government attorneys that vexed many advocates already frustrated with the lengthy repeal process and ongoing legal machinations.

"The executive branch has been exceptionally unreasonable in the amount of time it has now let the legislative certification process drag out," Servicemembers United executive director Alexander Nicholson, a plaintiff in the Log Cabin Republicans case against "don't ask, don't tell," said Friday. "It is simply not right to put the men and women of our armed forces through this circus any longer."

Government attorneys argued that the Ninth Circuit's intervention threatened to derail "the orderly process" for repealing DADT. A three-judge panel ruled on July 6 to lift its stay on a federal district judge's injunction against the policy in the Log Cabin case.

"[T]he panel's order denies the Department of Defense the very thing that Congress and the President believed was most likely to bring about effective transition to open military service by gay and lesbian Service

In reply, the Ninth Circuit panel cited the more detailed information DOJ has since submitted to the court on the current status of repeal certification — including the statistic that only one service member had been discharged as a result of DADT this year. That individual, identified by The Advocate as Airman 1st Class Albert Pisani, had asked to be "separated expeditiously" from the armed forces.

The Defense Department has confirmed that three other service members have been approved for discharge by the Secretary of the Air Force this year, however. Replying to request for comment, Defense Department spokeswoman Eileen Lainez said that the three additional service members "were in various stages of the [DADT] separation process when the stay was lifted, and so those separation actions have been suspended."

Another service member, Airman 1st Class Justin Dailey, told The Advocate last week that his discharge process under DADT had been suspended as a result of the court ruling — and would ostensibly continue to be suspended should the Ninth Circuit's order stand. Dailey said he had been undergoing discharge proceedings after commanders became aware of his



U.S. Court Of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

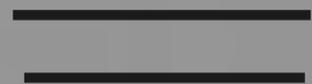
sexual orientation and that he was not seeking to leave the military under DADT.

"[I]f the DOJ was granted a stay, my case would most likely be expedited," Dailey said via e-mail. "I am so tired of being tossed around and being told my career is over one second and then it's not the next."

Others say communication on the status of DADT has been insufficient, despite a Pentagon memo issued last week confirming that officials would comply with the court's order. "Surprisingly, we've heard nothing in the field, nothing from our chain-of-command," said Lt. Col. Victor Fehrenbach, who reached an agreement last August with the Air Force preventing his discharge under DADT (Fehrenbach retires in September with full rank). "We have

received zero official word for any official source, not even my squadron commander. Everyone seems confused. Is DADT in effect or isn't it? Even the chain-of-command doesn't seem to know."

Critics have argued that the legislative conditions on DADT repeal do not go far enough to protect gay service members. The Log Cabin Republicans, which brought its lawsuit against the policy in 2004, has said it will not drop the case challenging DADT's constitutionality. Oral arguments in the appeal before the Ninth Circuit are scheduled for Sept. 1 in Pasadena, Calif.





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COMMENTARY...

by Dr. Scout

Say My Name: LGBT Health Starts To Count

While people cheer over marriage equality finally arriving in New York, I have watched a much quieter victory unfold.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services rolled out plans last week for adding LGBT data measures to the leading federal health survey. This huge milestone for our communities is a moment to be celebrated. And although HHS secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced her commitment to collect LGBT data, those of us who were advocates for years knew how long it could take for the federal government to go from promise to reality, so we were waiting for a little more than good intentions. And we got all that and more.

Secretary Sebelius and the Office of Minority Health have a plan.

Their time line includes not only adding the tested LGB question to health surveys but also developing and adding much needed gender identity questions. The section of health care reform that requires better race and ethnicity data collection also allowed HHS to suggest new populations to measure. So HHS has now committed to developing a full standard for the routine measurement of LGBT data over the next few years. Again, this may seem small and unimportant to many, but as someone with more than a few pocket protectors in my drawer, for whom the label "data geek" isn't foreign, I know this is a moment I'll talk about well into my retirement.

Think what it would be like if you opened your dictionary and couldn't find the words lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. What if the only place those words even existed was in some online urban slang dictionary? The truth is that when it comes to federal and state funding, priorities and resources are all driven

by the "dictionary" of what data agencies can cite. Without those data, they don't say our name, don't include us as prioritized populations in funding announcements, don't allow us to have the same vocabulary to prove why we need to be included in grants. We just don't exist.

Hate crimes against us wouldn't get counted, and we wouldn't even know how many service members were released under "don't ask, don't tell," how many same-sex couples might want to marry, how many of us are parents, and myriad other information about LGBT people.

Now one of the largest agencies in the federal government has announced that it is introducing the words lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender into the dictionary. It is doing it publicly, with millions of dollars of internal resources being spent to make sure it is done with every possible scientific validation. The research it does to find the best way to ask the questions is work that can be replicated by every other agency and should be quickly. Someday soon, we will be on the U.S. Census as well.

A friend emailed me, wishing me "Happy Data Day! I presume it's already a national holiday, right?" Yes, I think this moment really is our holiday, because many things can come and go in this world, but data are forever.

(Dr. Scout is a transgender father of three kids and works as an adjunct assistant clinical professor at Boston University School of Public Health, the director of science policy for the National Coalition for LGBT Health, and as the director of the Network for LGBT Health Equity. The Network is a project of The Fenway Institute at Fenway Community Health in Boston, MA. This piece is reprinted from advocate.com.)

Study Suggests Genes Help Determine Women's Sexual Orientation

LONDON (Observer Update) - Results of a new UK study suggest that genes may play a role in determining a woman's sexual orientation and "childhood gender typicality."

The study - conducted by Andrea Burri and Qazi Rahman - draws on previous research that suggests "developmental pathways towards homosexuality might be different for men and women."

According to PsychCentral, prior studies found that 50 to 80 percent of a sample of "gender nonconforming" boys become gay adults while about 33 percent of such girls became lesbian adults. The current study followed a group of 4,000 women, each one of a pair of twins. The women were asked questions about their sexual attractions and behaviors followed by a series of questions about their gender identity and nonconformity, reports advocate.com.

Results found that genes count for about 25 percent of the variation in sexual orientation and 32 percent of the variation in gender nonconformity. The study also cited the link between prenatal androgen levels and "gender-related behaviors and interests" as a possible cause of "sex-atypical" behavior.

Despite the correlation, the authors note that "sexual orientation data are notoriously skewed" due to "insufficient numbers of non-heterosexual participants." Said Rahman of the results: "We know that gay people who are strongly gender nonconforming report more anxiety and depression symptoms... Our results suggest that being gender nonconforming and lesbian comes from 'within,' there is little you can do about it."

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SOME PEOPLE ARE GAY. GET OVER IT!

Stonewall

Argentina Celebrates Nearly 2,700 Weddings In First Year Of Gay Marriage



BUENOS AIRES (Observer Update) - In the year since Argentina lawmakers legalized gay marriage, 2,697 gay and lesbian couples have tied the knot, La Nacion reported. Argentina became the first Latin American country to legalize gay marriage after President Christina Fernandez de Kirchner signed the law on July 21, 2010.

Lawmakers approved the law over the strong objections of the Roman Catholic Church; one cardinal called the movement to legalized such unions the devil's handiwork. Opponents have begun a petition drive calling on lawmakers to nullify the law, reported ontopmag.com.

A couple together 27 years was the first to marry under the law. Architect Juan Carlos Navarro married his partner Miguel Angel Calefato in Santiago del Estero on July 30.

More men (60%) have married than women, and marriages occurred in all states. "There were weddings in all districts. The balance is very positive," said Stephen Paulon, general secretary of Federacion Argentina de Lesbianas, Gays, Bisexuales y Trans (FALGBT), the nation's largest gay rights group. "Couples have not faced any major legal hurdles to marrying."

Paulon added that some couples faced discrimination after marrying, such as the loss of a job or being denied a renewal on a lease.

It is estimated that Argentina has 2,400,000 gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender persons. Gay marriage is also legal in the city-state of Mexico City, whose marriages are recognized throughout Mexico.

National Association of Realtors (NAR) Bans Discrimination Against Gay People

DETROIT (Observer Update) - The trade organization National Association of Realtors (NAR) recently banned discrimination based on sexual orientation, reported ontopmag.com.

The group's new anti-discrimination policy, approved last year and in effect since January 1, prohibits a realtor member from denying his or her "professional services to any person for reasons of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin and sexual orientation."

In Holland, Michigan, where the city council recently rejected an ordinance that would have banned discrimination based on sexual orientation, realtor Dale Zahn, CEO of the West Michigan Lakeshore Association of Realtors, told MLive.com that the city's decision wouldn't affect his business.

"Regardless of what Holland did, a realtor cannot violate the code and ignore it," Zahn said. "Realtors have to live under the code regardless of that local ordinance. The code prevails." Jeff Hammerberg, founder of GayRealEstate.com, said the new policy was "rolled out quietly." "[W]e wanted to make the LGBT community and nation aware," of the change, he said.

Realtors interviewed for MLive.com's story supported the move. "It would seem to me that not allowing discrimination on any basis would be the natural order of things," said Eric Webster, a realtor since 1989. "I don't believe anyone should be discriminated against because of who they are."

Woody's

Friday
Susan Artemis is back 6 to 9 pm
Dj Ryze Playing from 9 to Close

Saturday
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Pride Picnic Sunday June 25, 1989.
Sisters Of Sonora (SOS) 'Wishes' Fundraiser Balloon Release

The Tucson LGBT Museum (T.L.G.B.T.M.) Cordially invites all LGBT-related 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.

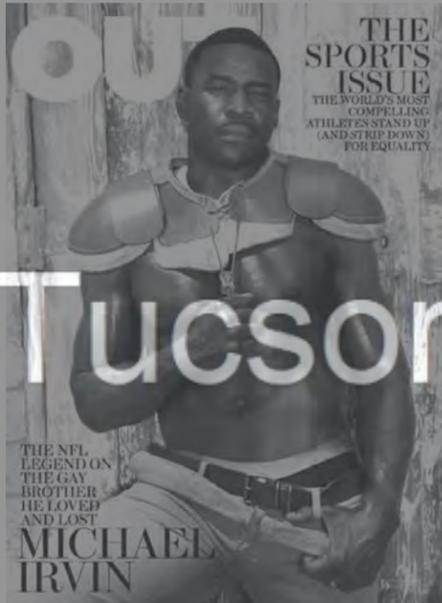
Exhibits to be shown are between the years 1700 to 2011 with the museum set to open up to the public later this year. The group has been collecting Tucson LGBT history for 44 years in an effort that began in the summer of 1967 with a small group of 'sexually liberated' high school students from two local area schools.

E-mail: TucsonLGBTMuseum@live.com

(Attn: Exhibits)

tucsonobserver.com
It's More Than You Think.

Michael Irvin Tells Magazine His Brother Was Gay



hint of how tough it must be for a homosexual athlete to hide his orientation in a locker room.

"If I'm not gay and I am afraid to mention it, I can only imagine what an athlete must be going through if he is gay," Irvin said. "I would like to see players come forward and be happy with who they are. Hopefully, as we move forward, we'll get to a place where there's no way it's even considered; it just is what it is and everybody can do what they do. That's the ultimate goal."

Irvin said he believes the fast life he's led was to accentuate his heterosexuality. He said he wanted everyone in the locker room to see him have the most women and the nicest car "so that everybody says, 'Michael's the man.'"

"Maybe some of the issues I've had with so many women - just bringing women around so everybody can see - maybe that's residual of the fear I had that, if my brother is wearing ladies' clothes, am I going to be doing that? Is it genetic?" Irvin said. "I'm certainly not making excuses for my bad decisions. But I had to dive inside of me to find out why I was making these decisions, and that came up."

Irvin said Vaughn's cross-dressing was never discussed among the family, which included 17 children. Throughout his career, he said, he feared that Vaughn's sexual orientation would become publicized and shame the family. It wasn't disclosed until the Out article. Irvin said he remained close to his brother, a bank manager, until his death in 2006. He was 49 when he died of stomach cancer. "He was the smartest, most charismatic man I'd ever seen in my life," Irvin said.

DALLAS (Observer Update) - Hall of Fame receiver Michael Irvin says his womanizing may have stemmed from seeing an older brother whom he idolized dressed as a woman and learning the brother was gay, reported advocate.com.

In the latest issue of Out magazine, Irvin said he was 12 when he discovered his older brother Vaughn's secret life. He said his father told him: "Yes, that's your brother. And you love your brother." The former Dallas Cowboys star now appears on the NFL Network and on his own radio show in Miami. He has supported same-sex marriage on his radio show and has said he's waiting for an active player in the NFL, MLB, NBA or NHL to declare publicly that he is gay.

"Until we do that, we're going to be stuck in the Dark Ages about a lot of things," Irvin told the magazine. "When a guy steps up and says, 'This is who I am,' I guarantee you I'll give him 100 percent support." Irvin said carrying the burden of Vaughn's secret gives him a

Man Who 'Appeared Gay' Rejected From Ind. Blood Center

INDIANAPOLIS (Observer Update) - A man who "appeared to be a homosexual" was told he could not donate blood at an Indiana blood center, reported advocate.com.

Aaron Pace, a "noticeably effeminate" straight man told the Chicago Sun-Times, "it's not right that homeless people can give blood but homosexuals can't. And I'm not even a homosexual."

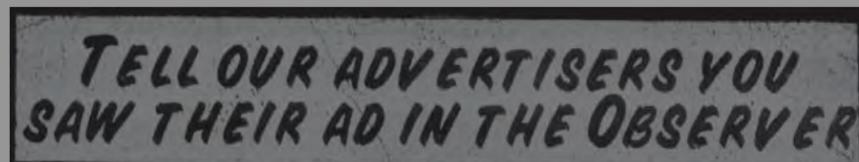
Blood centers, including the American Red Cross, still cite a 30-year old rule that bars gay men from donating blood - a policy sparked by concerns about HIV.

Curt Ellis, former director of HIV public education group The Alliveness Project, said that "the policy is based on the stigma associated with HIV that existed early on... It seems like some stigmas will just never die."

Today, they test all donated blood for HIV and other infectious

diseases. Last year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services voted not to recommend a change to the FDA policy that does not allow gay men to donate blood.

According to a spokesperson, the American Red Cross has recommended that the FDA modify the criteria for deferral.



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FCKH8 Raising Money For Fight Against Minnesota's Gay Marriage Ban

LOS ANGELES (Observer Update) - The nascent gay marriage group FCKH8's newest video raises money for the fight against Minnesota's proposed gay marriage ban, ontopmag.com reported. In the nearly 3-minute video a group of energetic young people enthusiastically debunk the top reasons to ban gay marriage.



"Reason one: Homosexuality is completely f**king with the rules of nature."

"Better to be an orphan than have two mommies," a female teen says.

"Just like antibiotics," says a female teen.

The group has pledged to donate up to \$10,000 from sales of t-shirts, stickers and calendars to fight a proposed 2012 ballot question that would constitutionally limit marriage in Minnesota to heterosexual couples.

"Reason two: My church doesn't believe in gay marriage."

The Bible "also tells me it's OK to sell my daughter into slavery, and to stone people, and to not work on Sunday," a trio says. "So, it's great for making laws," adds a fourth female.

"Reason three: Homo marriages are not real marriages."

"Hello! Because ass f**king and scissoring can't make babies," two teens say.

"Reason four: Gay marriage will only let the gays f**king recruit more people to go homo."

"Gayness is super f**king contagious," a girl whispers.

"Reason five: It is f**ked up when gay couples adopt kids."



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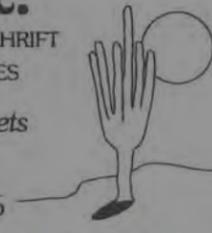
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California Unsure How Ex-Gay Group Got Approved

SACRAMENTO (Observer Update) - The California Board of Behavioral Sciences is trying to figure out how it allowed an ex-gay group on its list of Continuing Education providers, reported ontopmag.com.

sexuality. I can guarantee that would not pass. It might be that they worded their original application vaguely so that it could avoid any red flags."

The National Association for Research & Therapy of Homosexuality is recorded as an approved provider for Continuing Education hours for California social workers and therapists, according to the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. When asked about how the ex-gay group was added, a spokesperson from the California Department of Consumer Affairs didn't know. The department oversees the Board of Behavioral Sciences. The application, from at least five years ago, is stored outside of the office and must be retrieved, the spokesperson said. They are hoping to retrieve the application this afternoon.

Heimerich cited a similar incident with the California Board of Registered Nurses in 2009. "A bogus organization got accredited as a continuing education provider with some bogus courses," Heimerich said. "Even though we were able to revoke them because they had lied on their application, it's difficult for us to know unless we could do course evaluations, which we can't typically do." Heimerich noted that the program, in any case, may soon change. Continuing Education might be replaced in California with Continuing Competency, Heimerich said.

"It depends on what we were told in our application originally about the types of courses they were going to offer," Russ Heimerich, a spokesman for the California Department of Consumer Affairs said. "I strongly suspect what we are going to find is an application loaded with buzz words but nothing indicating that they were teaching courses on preventing homo-

"We're going to make sure you make minimal levels of competency, and if you don't you'll be required to take specific courses to improve your competency in specific areas," Heimerich said. "It might be fun to have a nurse learn about therapeutic touch, but actually testing her for competency on cultural awareness or rural disease prevention, that might actually be more valuable."

Cambridge First City To Pay Tax Penalty For Married Gay Couples

AMBRIDGE (Observer Update) - The city of Cambridge, Massachusetts has agreed to help pay a federal tax penalty for married gay and lesbian couples, the AP reported on ontopmag.com.

Decker, a Cambridge city councilor, told the news wire service. "This is a city that models what equality really means." The city says it has about two dozen workers who qualify for the roughly \$33,000 stipend.

Because of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which bars federal agencies from recognizing the legal marriages of gay couples, the federal government taxes the health benefits of gay couples but not straight couples.

Mayor David Maher is the city's third consecutive openly gay mayor. The state of Massachusetts last year challenged the constitutionality of DOMA in federal court and won. The case was among several that prompted the Obama administration to announce it would no longer defend the law in court. However, the Republican-controlled House has agreed to take on the task and has appealed the decision.

The Cambridge city council last month agreed to a plan to provide a quarterly stipend to gay city or school employees who put a spouse on their health insurance. The city is believed to be the first municipality to offer such compensation.

Several large corporations, including Google and Facebook, also offer a similar benefit.

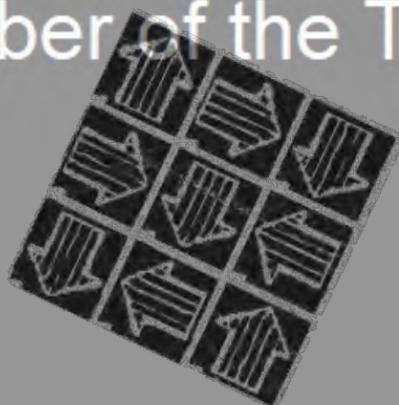
"This is about equality," Marjorie

Presbyterian Church To Ordain Openly LGBT Members

MIINEAPOLIS (Observer Update) - Paul Mowry - who grew up in the Presbyterian Church - dreamed of being part of his family's long line of ministers. That dream was put on hold when he came out to his friends and family as gay, because the church barred LGBT members from becoming part of the clergy. But now, it seems, Paul will finally be able achieve his life-long goal, reports advocate.com.

More Light Presbyterians - the oldest pro-LGBT organization within the denomination - will sponsor a national day of prayer in recognition of these ordinations.

On July 10, the Presbyterian Church will put into effect an amendment to their constitution allowing openly LGBT members to be ordained as ministers, elders, and deacons. Under the church's new policy, Mowry and eight others will be ordained as the first openly gay ministers in the Presbyterian Church.



The Tucson LGBT Museum is asking the LGBT Community's help in finding issues of the 'Arizona Gay Newsletter' between January 1, 1982 and December 31, 1982
Email: TucsonLGBTMuseum@live.com
(Attn: Exhibits)

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Poet's Corner

Rootin' Tootin' Brooklyn Cowboy

by Ron Rose - Tucson

This grizzled Brooklyn Cowboy rides the range to Ebbets Field,
 Where the antics of dem Dodgers used to be revealed.
 No cactus and no sage brush on the trail to Coney Isle,
 Where Nathan's famous hotdogs make the visitors all smile.
 Bagels, Lox and Knishes, ethnic food you gotta love
 Heartburn will surround you like the blazing sun above.
 The Mafia, those good fellows, still saunter through the hood,
 The cops all look the other way, you knew they surely would.
 So Jackie, Duke and Pee Wee, these names we know so well,
 If you play the Yanks in Heaven. Send 'em straight to Hell!



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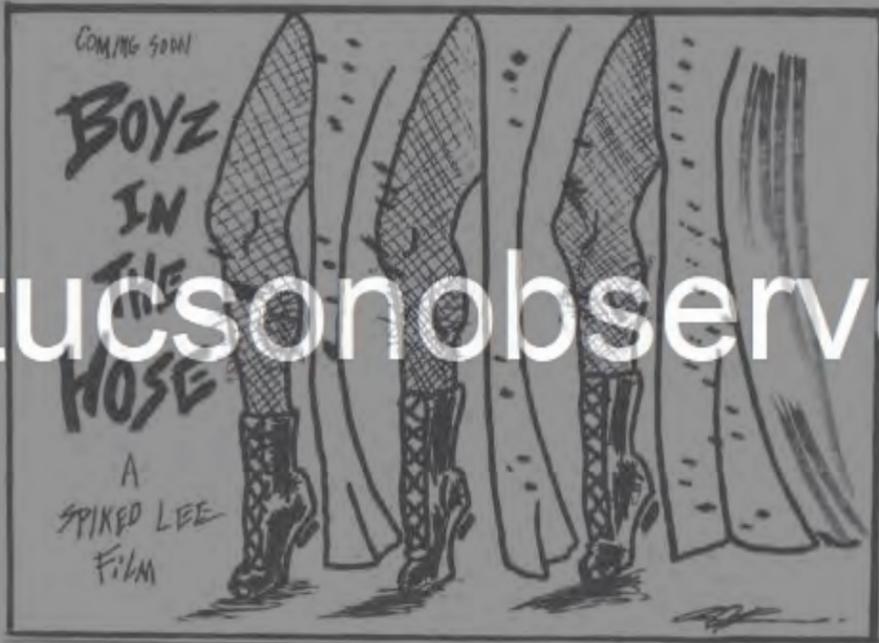
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The Way I Saw It. . .by Gary Clark



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!

Bachman Admits To Ex-Gay Therapy At His Clinic

NNEAPOLIS (Observer Update) - Republican presidential candidate Michelle Bachmann's husband Marcus Bachmann has confirmed that ex-gay therapy takes place at his Christian counseling center.

An out gay man recently went undercover to Marcus Bachmann and Associates posing as a struggling ex-gay patient. He recorded the sessions, in which the counselor tried to cure him of same-sex attraction. "This individual came to us under a false pretense," Marcus Bachmann said in an interview with the Minneapolis Star Tribune. "The truth of the matter is he specifically asked for help. Is [ex-gay therapy] a

remedy form that I typically would use? ... It is at the client's discretion."

Ex-gay therapy has been discredited by the American Medical Association, American Psychological Association, American Psychiatric Association, and the American Counseling Association, among others.

Marcus Bachmann was recently quoted in a radio interview supposedly calling homosexuals "barbarians." He has denied such claims. Michelle Bachmann recently signed an anti-gay pledge promising to bar gay marriage on the federal or state level.

SAVE TUCSON'S LGBT HISTORY!

Contact the Tucson's LGBT Museum about sharing/donating your LGBT history-related memories, memorabilia, photos, 8mm films, home videos. Estate LGBT historical items are welcomed from executors, executrixes, individuals, family members, trustees.

Email: Tucson LGBT Museum@live.com

Gordon Fox Says Letting Go Of Gay Marriage Was Difficult Decision



PROVIDENCE (Observer Update) - Rhode Island House Speaker Gordon Fox has said a compromise on gay marriage was a difficult decision, reported ontopmag.com.

"I made the right decision, as hard as it is," Fox told WPRO radio of his decision to back away from a marriage bill and push for civil unions for gay and lesbian couples.

Governor Lincoln Chafee signed the civil unions bill into law, making Rhode Island the fifth state behind Illinois, Hawaii, New Jersey and Delaware to offer the union.

Fox insisted he's a supporter of gay marriage: "I will state for the record: I am unequivocally a full supporter of marriage equality. Haven't wavered from that. Will not waver from that. And have never done anything, or hopefully said anything, that gave anyone the impression that I've somehow walked

away from that position, or turned my back on that position."

The openly gay lawmaker stirred controversy when he dropped support for a marriage bill in favor civil unions after it became clear that full marriage would not clear the Democrat-controlled Senate. Civil unions, he insisted, are a "step in the right direction." Fox also urged proponents of gay marriage to "stay focused on the fight."

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum



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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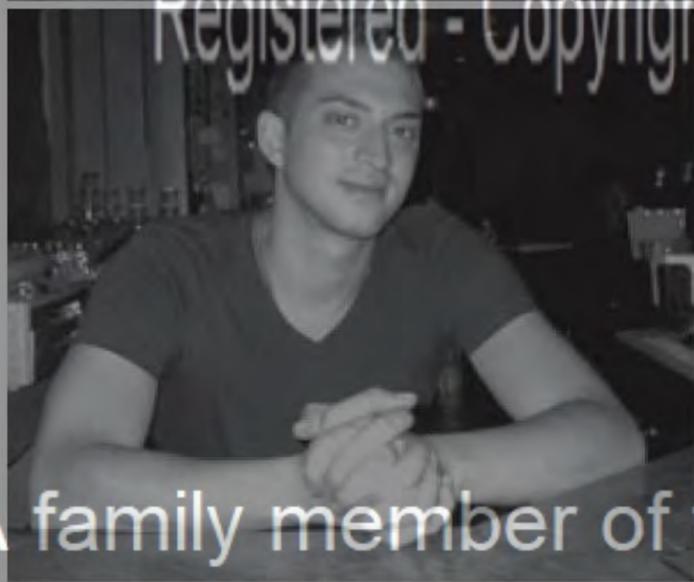
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