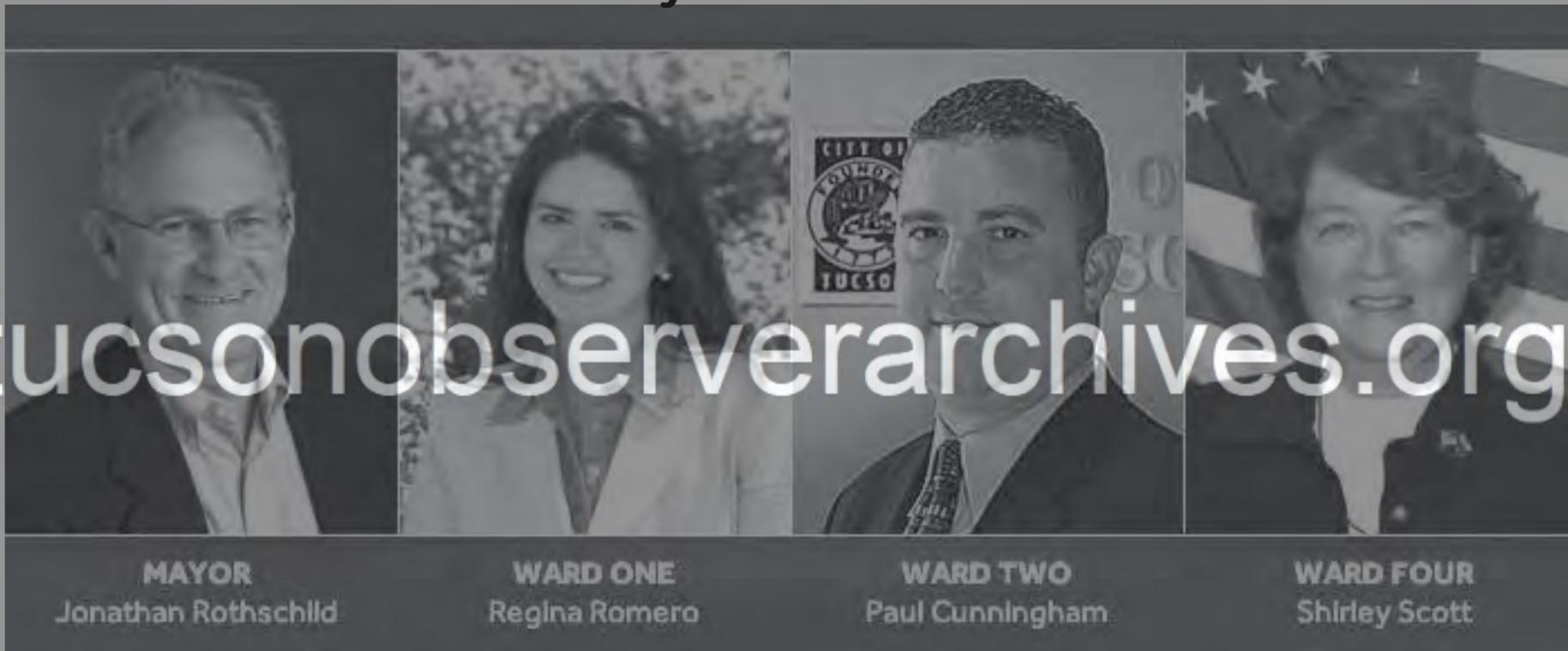




Tucson City Election: Most Votes Cast Since 1999 Vote By Mail A Success



MAYOR
Jonathan Rothschild

WARD ONE
Regina Romero

WARD TWO
Paul Cunningham

WARD FOUR
Shirley Scott

TUCSON (Observer Update) - More than 85,000 registered Tucson voters (41%) cast ballots in the City's, first, all mail-election on Tuesday, November 8.

This marks the best turnout of voters since the 1999 Tucson Mayoral election, in which a controversial water measure was on the ballot, as well as contested Council races.

Jonathan Rothschild capped a more than year long campaign, by handily defeating his Republican and Green Party opponents.

Councilmember Regina Romero was elected to another term to represent Tucson's Ward 1.

Paul Cunningham made history in this election by becoming the first individual appointed to a Council seat to win a full term on their own right in the history of Tucson. Cunningham will serve Tucson's Ward 2 for the next four years.

After two, nasty, independent efforts against her, by a car dealer and Republican National Committeeman, Bruce Ash, Shirley Scott won another term to represent Tucson's Ward 4.

John Huppenthal Apologizes To Gay Community

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - Arizona's top education boss apologized to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community for comments he made during a public appearance in Tucson last month, reported the Arizona Republic.

John Huppenthal, state superintendent of public instruction, sent a letter to Equality Arizona, a Phoenix-based non-profit that advocates for gay rights, saying he was sorry for indirectly grouping the gay community with a reference to "inappropriate behaviors" by other groups, including neo-Nazis.

During an Oct. 20 panel discussion in Tucson, Huppenthal was defending the fact that Senate President Russell Pearce had appeared in a photograph with J.T. Ready, a man affiliated with neo-Nazi groups who ran for the Mesa City Council in 2006. Pearce has denied affiliation with Ready, and Huppenthal said that just because someone takes a picture with a person doesn't mean they are affiliated with one another.

The letter of apology did not

specifically say what Huppenthal said to anger gay support groups. In the letter, Huppenthal said he meant to paraphrase what he said is a frequent quote from Pearce: "I've had my picture taken with Democrats and lesbians and yet no one's accused me of being a Democrat or a lesbian."

Huppenthal said he used the words "known homosexual" instead of "lesbian."

Those comments and a previous reference to "inappropriate behavior" on behalf of other neo-Nazi groups angered gay activists, who said Huppenthal lumped the community with a group that was offensive. "The phrase 'known homosexual' has been used in the past to make it seem as if being gay was something perverted or deviant," said Madelaine Adelman, co-chair of the Phoenix chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

Huppenthal was out of town and unavailable for comment. But Andrew LeFevre, a spokesman for

Huppenthal, said a person who attended the gathering asked the question that sparked the misunderstanding. "(A) speaker attacked the superintendent on his stance on several issues, including his support of Pearce in the recall election," said Andrew LeFevre, a spokesman for the Arizona Department of Education.

In the letter, Huppenthal wrote:

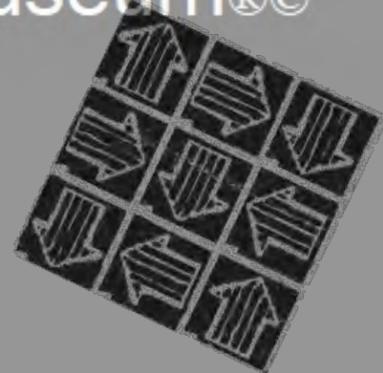
"Please accept my sincerest apology for my poor choice of words and my absolute assurance that there was no attempt to disparage any member of the gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender community."

LeFevre said Huppenthal will meet with Equality Arizona to discuss bullying of gay students in school districts throughout the state.

"We are grateful to Superintendent Huppenthal for agreeing to sit down with us in the very near future to discuss our concerns ... and how we might partner to tackle what he readily acknowledges is the disproportionate

bullying of LGBT students," said Nick Ray, executive director of Equality Arizona, adding that he believes Huppenthal's apology to be sincere.

Other groups that support the gay community said that they welcomed Huppenthal's apology and anti-bullying message but that actions speak louder than words and that they hope to see Huppenthal enact changes in Arizona schools on the bullying of the gay community.



UPDATE

Day Of Remembrance Events Commemorate Lives And Deaths Of Transgender Individuals

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Transgender Day of Remembrance events in Phoenix and Tucson will remember more than 100 transgender and transsexual individuals who have been murdered worldwide during 2011.

Kites will be part of Tucson observance. Kites representing transgender people who were murdered in 2011 will be part of a vigil on Nov. 19 at the University of Arizona campus Tucson. Made for Flight, a Tucson program that organizes workshops to educate people on transgender history and issues, will display the kites made by its members and students from local high schools.

"They had beautiful lives and were people," TC Tolbert said. "We should build kites so we can look up. There's a resiliency and beauty to that motion." Tucson's sixth annual Day of Remembrance will also include poetry readings. The event is also sponsored by the University of Arizona's Pride Alliance and Wingspan, Tucson's LGBT community center. The organizations are also offering events during Transgender Awareness Week Nov. 14-19, including workshops, a resource fair, panel discussions and film screenings.

Chuzapalooza Raises \$200 For Tournament

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Bowlers came out Saturday, Nov. 12, for the Chuzapalooza, no-tap tournament, held at Tucson Bowl.

Scores weren't important, but having fun was and those who turned out had a good time for a good cause - Tucson's LGBT bowling tournament to be held January 13-15, 2012 at Tucson Bowl.

For more information, go to chuzapalooza.com.

Gay Lt. And Spouse Attend Marine Corps Gala

FORT HUACHUCA (Observer Update) - Navy lieutenant Gary Ross and his husband, Dan Swezey, are likely to shake things up Friday evening when they attend a Marine Corps Ball at Arizona's Fort Huachuca.

When Ross purchased tickets for the event, a Marine asked if he was bringing his wife. He responded by saying, "No. I am bringing my husband."

Ross and Swezey have been together for 12 years - on September 20 in Vermont they became the first same-sex military couple to legally marry.

Russell Pearce Plays Gay Boy Scout Card In Sour Grapes Diatribe

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - Former Arizona Senate President Russell Pearce went on Greta van Susteren's show on FOX Thursday night to whine about being beaten by fellow Republican Jerry Lewis in the recall election Tuesday, Nov. 8, the Phoenix New Times reports:

Van Susteren asked Pearce whether he and Lewis are friends. He responded by launching into a tirade about recall elections, boy scouts, and homosexuals.

"That's a stretch. We're not enemies, but that's a stretch. It's just not true. He opposes SB-1070, he supports the Dream Act. He supports gays in Boy Scouts. He's endorsed by the Democrats. We are at opposite ends of this issue. So that's a stretch," Pearce says.

Jerome Beillard Festival For Life 2011, Nov. 19

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Jerome Beillard Festival for Life will celebrate its 23rd anniversary in 2011. Festival for Life is an evening featuring a live and silent auction of fine art and other unique gifts. This year's event is Saturday November 19, at the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center, 1228 West River Road.

December 8, 1989 was the first Festival of the Trees, a fundraiser for the People with AIDS Coalition of Tucson (P.A.C.T). The event auctioned off nearly 200 decorated trees and wreaths for the holiday season. Over the years, the event grew and in 1992, Festival of the Trees became Festival for Life adding artwork, menorahs, and celebrity items. That year also had a special appearance by Miss Mary Wilson, formerly of the Supremes. In 1995, P.A.C.T.'s co-founder and Executive Director, Jérôme Beillard, passed away from AIDS complications and Festival for Life was renamed to the Jérôme Beillard Festival for Life - honoring the work and spirit of a great man. Each year added amazing artwork, designer Christmas trees, gift baskets, celebrity items and sculptures. Each year also added local sponsors and community members all supporting the same cause.

In 1997, when the three AIDS Service Organizations merged to create the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) - the Paper Prayer Benefit from the Shanti Foundation was added to Festival for Life. Local artists, students, and others create strips of art that represent an ancient Japanese tradition of giving a person who is ill a Paper Prayer as a gift to bring good health. Each year, Festival for Life continues to sell hundreds of Papers to Prayers to be used as cards and tokens of good health.

Over the years, the event has grown and changed, but the main attraction continues to be the collection of fine artwork on display in the live and silent auction. In addition to art, the auction features holiday items, gift baskets, gift certificates, celebrity collectibles, trips, one-of-a-kind experiences and paper prayers. Our guests recognize this great opportunity to find amazing works of art and great gifts, just as the holiday shopping season begins!

For more information, go online to festivalforlife.org.

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



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Saving Our History Since 1967

Much Ado About Nothing

Jack Melichar

Boys and girls, you won't believe this. I am leaving the Democrats and joining the Republicans. I am doing this not because I believe the Republicans have better ideas, but rather because they are more amusing.

The Democrats have no one to compare with Calamity Cain. For the most part, they can remember when they have had their hand up a woman's skirt. Not so with Calamity. When pressed, he prefers to talk about God and how He commanded Cain to run for the White House - rather like Moses being commanded to lead the Jews out of Egypt. PLEASE! If you want to follow Cain to the promised land - where ever that is - be my guest. However, given his sense of geography, you could very well wind up in Iran or on the moon.

Then we have Perilous Perry whose only claim to fame is that he makes George W. look like a Rhodes scholar - no easy feat that! "I want to do three things on my first day in the White House. Trouble is I can only remember two. Just trust me on the third."

Frankly, after Shrub, I don't really trust Texan politicians.

Having eliminated those aforementioned, and knowing I would become severely ill voting for the remaining pack (except for Huntsman who doesn't have a prayer and Romney who makes me concerned that we may have to marry two women (just jesting)) I am left with my personal choice - MICHELE BACHMANN!

It is not that I believe she would be an outstanding leader - au contraire. She would be horrible. However, she would supply me with enough material so writing a column would be duck soup! Allow me to illustrate:

- On the National Debt "I think if we give Glen Beck the numbers, he can solve this."
- "Michael Steele, you be da man! You be da man!"
- "Speaker Pelosi has been busy sticking the taxpayers with her \$100,00 bar tab for alcohol on the military jets she's been flying."
- "Lady Liberty and Sarah Palin are lit by the same torch."
- "Carbon dioxide is portrayed as harmful. But there isn't even one study that can be produced that shows that carbon dioxide is a harmful gas."
- "(Gay marriage) is probably the biggest issue that will impact our state and nation in the last, at least, thirty years (sic.). I'm not understanding that."

Well, you get my drift. But, of course, she is not the only GOP woman who is zingy. Our own Jan Brewer will not win any prizes for intellect. Besides, she is not particularly attractive. I don't know if its true, but I heard when she was an infant, her mother fed her with a sling shot. Well boys and girls, so long until next time.

Alex Morse: Nation's Youngest Mayor



HOLYOKE (Observer Update) - Alex Morse on Tuesday, Nov. 8, was elected mayor of Holyoke, Massachusetts, making the 22-year-old the nation's youngest gay mayor, reports ontopmag.com.

While attending Brown University, Morse worked three years for Rhode Island Rep. David Cicilline when he was mayor of Providence. "Alex Morse, my mentee, elected tonight as Mayor of Holyoke, Ma." Cicilline tweeted. "Congrats, Alex! A visionary, committed, new young leader for his city."

Holyoke, a city of nearly 40,000 residents, is considered part of the greater Springfield metropolitan area. Morse enjoyed the endorsement of the Lesbian & Gay Victory Fund, a bipartisan group devoted to electing openly gay candidates.

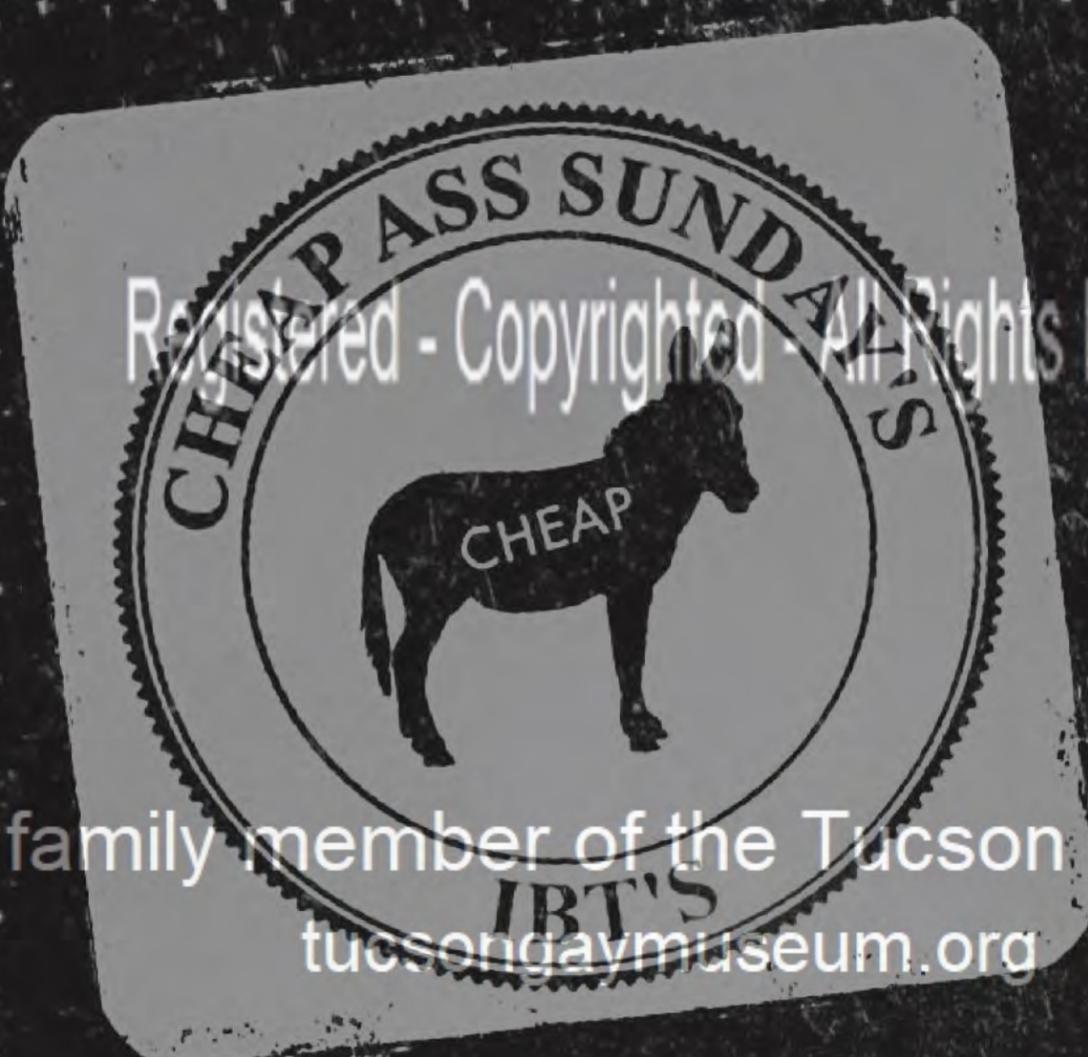
"Alex is a force of nature, and proof that young LGBT Americans are determined to live authentic lives as they build their careers," said Chuck Wolfe, president of the Victory Fund. "We're incredibly proud of the campaign he ran."

"This is an incredible moment, not just for the campaign, but for the city of Holyoke," Morse told supporters in his Tuesday victory speech. "This campaign has been an incredible journey, and this is just the beginning."

"We need to make sure that no matter when, no matter where we live, no matter what language we speak, no matter what we look like - we are always proud to call Holyoke home," he added.

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TEN CONTROVERSIAL GAY GAFFES THAT SHOOK HOLLYWOOD

LOS ANGELES (Observer Update) - Brett Ratner's recent use of a homophobic slur led to the producer stepping down from this year's Oscars telecast. From Bob Hope to Tracy Morgan, THR takes a look back in history at some other offenders who got into hot water, towleroad.com reported by link.

During a special screening of Brett Ratner's new movie Tower Heist, the Oscar producer said, "rehearsal's for fags" during a post-show question-and-answer session. The ensuing firestorm—fueled by other provocative comments Ratner made boasting about his sex life—led him to step down as producer of the Oscars on Tuesday (with Eddie Murphy bailing as the host on Wednesday). But Ratner is not the first celebrity to get into trouble for using a gay slur.

From Bob Hope to Mel Gibson to Tracy Morgan anti-gay gaffes and outright slurs have landed many celebrities in hot water. Some have managed to apologize gracefully, others have suffered lasting career damage, and a few have defended their remarks. Here are ten of the most well-known incidents and their fallout:

The offender: Bob Hope, 1988 - The comment: During an appearance on The Tonight Show, Hope called someone a "fag" for wearing a colorful tie. **The fallout:** This was the first time GLAAD (the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Discrimination), founded in 1985, successfully pressured a celebrity to apologize for using a gay slur. At a time when public support for gay rights was still small, Hope agreed to record a public service announcement condemning anti-gay bigotry, graciously paying for it himself.

The offender: Mel Gibson, 1991 - The comment: In an interview with the Spanish newspaper El Pais, Gibson said, "Homosexuals take it up the ass. This is only for taking a s**t." He added, "I became an actor despite that. But with this look, who's going to think I'm gay? It would be hard to take me for someone like that. Do I sound like a homosexual? Do I talk like them? Do I move like them?" **The fallout:** The comments set in motion the long-term erosion of Gibson's public image, compounded by other incidents over the years. In 2006, Gibson reportedly made sexist and anti-Semitic comments to the police officer who arrested him suspicion of drunk driving. In 2010, recordings surfaced of Gibson verbally abusing former girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva and in 2011 he was sentenced to three years probation for domestic battery for hitting her.

The offender: Dr. Laura Schlesinger, 2000 - The comment: The radio show host had a long history of anti-gay comments, including calling homosexuality a "biological error," before getting her own syndicated TV talk show in September 2000. **The fallout:** GLAAD criticized Paramount's decision to give her a show and a website StopDrLaura.com catalogued her anti-gay comments. The controversy contributed to weak ratings for Dr. Laura. Schlesinger, a Jew, tried to apologize with a full-page ad in a Hollywood paper on Yom Kippur: "On the Day of Atonement, Jews are commanded to seek forgiveness from people we have hurt. I deeply regret the hurt this situation has caused the gay and lesbian community." But many gay activists called the ad too little, too late. The ratings for Schlesinger's TV show never picked up and in March 2001 Paramount decided not to renew it for a second season.

The offender: 50 Cent, 2004 - The comment: In an interview in Playboy, rapper 50 Cent said, "I ain't into faggots." Adding, "I'm not prejudiced. I just don't go with gay people and kick it—we don't have that much in common. ... But women who like women, that's cool." **The fallout:** 50 Cent shrugged off calls from gay rights groups to apologize. In 2010, after an argument with openly gay blogger Perez Hilton, 50 Cent tweeted, "Perez Hilton called me douche bag so I had my homie shoot up a gay wedding. wasn't his but still made me feel better." Again, the rapper ignored demands from GLAAD and other gay rights groups to apologize.

The offender: Isaiah Washington, 2006 - The comment: During an argument on the set of Grey's Anatomy, Washington allegedly told Patrick Dempsey "I'm not your little faggot like [co-star T. R. Knight]." **The fallout:** Washington's comments prompted Knight to openly acknowledge his homosexuality a few days later. He told Ellen DeGeneres, "I've never been called that to my face. So I think when that happened, something shifted, and it became bigger than myself." Washington apologized, calling his words "beneath my own personal standards," but the slur against the popular Knight seemed to alienate Washington from many of his Grey's castmates.

The controversy resurfaced at the Golden Globes in January 2007 when Washington joked about it and denied referring to Knight as a "faggot." In June 2007, Washington was dropped from Grey's Anatomy when his contract was not renewed for the next season.

The offender: Jay Leno, 2008 - The comment: On The Tonight Show he asked Ryan Phillippe, who played a gay teen on the Soap One Life to Live, "Can you give me your gayest look?" **The fallout:** After being condemned by GLAAD, Leno quickly apologized. "In talking about Ryan's first role, I realize that what I said came out wrong. I certainly didn't mean any malice. I agree it was a dumb thing to say, and I apologize."

The offender: Kobe Bryant, 2010 - The comment: During a game against the San Antonio Spurs, the Lakers star appeared to call a referee a "f***ing faggot." Although courtside microphones did not pick up the audio of Bryant's words, the videotape made it possible to read his lips. **The fallout:** The Human Rights Campaign immediately criticized Bryant, who tried to excuse his comment as a result of the passion of the game. "My actions were out of frustration during the heat of the game, period. The words expressed do not reflect my feelings towards the gay and lesbian communities and were not meant to offend anyone."

Still, NBA Commissioner David Stern fined Bryant \$100,000 and criticism of Bryant continued. Bryant then agreed to appear in a PSA condemning anti-gay slang for GLAAD. Bryant's comments generated a wide debate among NBA players and officials about the prevalence of gay slurs during in game "trash talking." Phoenix Suns star Grant Hill recorded his own PSA urging players not to use gay slurs as on-court insults and Phoenix CEO Rick Welts announced he was gay, becoming the highest profile sports executive to openly acknowledge his homosexuality.

The offender: Ron Howard, 2010 - The comment: The trailer for the Universal Pictures movie the Dilemma, directed by Howard and produced by Ratner's Oscar replacement Brian Grazer, featured Vince Vaughn's character, an advertising executive telling auto company executives, "Electric cars are gay. I mean, not homosexual, but my-parents-are-chaperoning-the-dance gay." **The fallout:** GLAAD called the use of the word "gay" in that context pejorative and asked Universal to remove it. After Anderson Cooper also criticized the line on CNN, Universal cut it from the trailer. But Howard opted to keep it in the movie, saying, "I believe in sensitivity but not censorship."

The offender: Patti Stanger, 2011 - The comment: Appearing on Bravo's Watch What Happens Live, the Millionaire Matchmaker host told a gay caller who worried about remaining faithful in a long distance relationship, "There is no curbing the gay man." Stanger then told openly gay host Andy Cohen, "I have tried to curb 'you people.'" **The fallout:** After a flurry of tweets criticizing her, Stanger herself tweeted an explanation, arguing she was speaking about Los Angeles-area gay men only. "It's true LA gays toughest nuts to crack to monogamy!" Followed by: "Attn male Gays: I support you & my comment on WWHL was to a LA guy who can't find commitment." After a similar equivocal apology on The Joy Behar Show failed to quell the outcry, Stanger issued a more direct apology, "I am so sorry. I did not mean to offend anyone with my comments." Bravo also apologized in a statement. "Her comments are not representative of the network's beliefs and opinions. We apologize for the offense it caused." But despite calls from some viewers for Stanger to be fired, she remains the host of the network's Millionaire Matchmaker show.

The offender: Tracy Morgan, 2011 - The comment: During a performance of his stand-up act in Nashville, Morgan went on an anti-gay riff, saying among other things he would stab his son if he told Morgan he was gay. **The fallout:** Morgan's comments went viral when a gay fan in attendance criticized his remarks on Facebook. After GLAAD criticized Morgan, he apologized. 30 Rock star Tina Fey and NBC head Ben Greenblatt also apologized for Morgan's comments, but defended Morgan personally, despite his history of homophobic jokes. Morgan remains a member of the 30 Rock cast.

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Devereux and "Proud Families" Unite to Place AZ Foster Children in Loving Homes

Devereux and "Proud Families" Unite to Place AZ Foster Children in Loving Homes

In Arizona, there are currently over 10,000 children, ages birth through 18, who have been removed, by Child Protective Services, from their biological families, due to an abusive background including physical and/or sexual abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Although the children are from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, they are all in need of temporary foster families to provide nurturing and loving homes. Efforts are always exhausted to return the children to their biological families, but if parental rights are severed, then there is also a need for permanent foster care homes and/or adoptive families.

Devereux, founded in 1912 by Helena Devereaux, and recognized by the Human Rights Campaign because of their culturally competent staff and programs, is teaming with the LGBT community through their "Proud Families" foster care recruitment effort. According to Paul Davis, a representative of Devereux, "The Proud Families Foster Care Program is one example of how Devereux is sensitive to the needs of our very diverse Tucson community. We welcome single, married, partnered, widowed, or divorced individuals who

would like to provide a loving home for a child or sibling group. The greatest need is in our foster care program. We have an abundance of older children and sibling groups of two or more waiting to find foster homes."

Orientations are offered to answer questions about the children in need, the basic requirements and process of fostering and adoption, and the roles and responsibilities of foster and adoptive parents. According to <https://www.azdes.gov/main.aspx?menu=102&id=6076>, an Arizona Department of Economic Security website, two local orientations remain on the 2011 schedule: La Paloma Services, 870 W Miracle Mile, is hosting on November 22nd at 12 noon, while AZ Baptist Children's Services, 825 N. Alvernon, will hold their next orientation on December 13th at 7pm.

For information about Devereux's Professional Foster Care, Regular Foster Care, or Respite Programs in Tucson, contact Laura Smithson at 520-296-5551, ext. 132. or visit www.devereuxarizona.org. For specifics about the Proud Families Foster Care program, visit http://www.devereux.org/site/PageServer?pagename=az_pf_index.

Census Count of Same Sex Couples Revised Down

CHICAGO - Mistakes made on some 2010 census forms led the U.S. Census Bureau to report an "artificially inflated" number of same-sex households, the Arizona Daily Star reported.

While the census reported 901,997 same-sex households nationally in August, new calculations of the 2010 census indicate there are 648-464 such households.

"What went wrong is something that we have known about for some time," said UCLA law school demographer Gary Gates, whom the census called in to review the revised figures for accuracy.

Unclear census forms led heterosexual couples in some cases to check boxes identifying themselves as same-sex couples, Gates said.

"There are something like 60 million different-sex (heterosexual) couples in the U.S. and if five or six per thousand make a mistake, the data comes in looking like there are far more same-sex couples," said Gates, who studies sexual orientation as it pertains to law and public policy.

The census said that its revised estimate of married same-sex households nationally is 131,729, well below the August count of 349,377. The revised estimates show there are 514,735 unmarried same-sex households, down from the 552,620 August total.

"As scientists, we noticed the inconsistency and developed the revised estimates to provide a more

accurate portrait of the number of same-sex couples," Robert Graves, director of the Census Bureau, said in a statement.

When the census totals were released in August, many in the gay and lesbian community thought they indicated more same sex couples were comfortable in identifying their sexual orientation. The revised numbers don't reflect that, but Gates said similar mistakes may have been made in 2000.

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WOODY'S... WHERE NIGHT TURNS INTO PLAY

Doctors' Training Faulted for Neglecting Gay Issues

CHICAGO - Future doctors aren't learning much about the unique health needs of gays and lesbians, a survey of medical school deans suggests.

On average, the schools devoted five hours in the entire curriculum to teaching content related to lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender patients, according to the survey results appearing in Journal of the American Medical Association. A third of the schools had none during the years students work with patients.

More than a quarter of the medical school deans said their school's coverage of 16 related topics was "poor" or "very poor". The topics included sex-change surgery, mental-health issues and HIV-AIDS.

While nearly all medical schools taught students to ask patients if they "have sex with men, women or both" while obtaining a sexual history, the overall curriculum lacked deeper instructions to help "students carry that conversation as far as it needs to go," said lead author Dr. Juno Obedin-Maliver of the University of California at San Francisco.

Without such education, doctors are left guessing and can make faulty assumptions, Obedin-Maliver said. For instance, lesbians need Pap tests, which screens for the sexually spread virus that causes most cervical cancer, as often as heterosexual women do. But some doctors assume they don't need them.

"I'm an ob-gyn and I have lesbian patients come to me and say I haven't had a Pap test in 20 years because my doctors said I didn't need one," Obedin-Maliver said.

Earlier this year. The Institute of medicine reported that there's little research to guide doctors in the treatment of lesbians and gays. But some things are known: There are increased risks of depression, suicide attempts, homelessness and being victims of violence for lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. Lesbians and bi-sexual women may get less preventive care to stay healthy. And have higher rates of obesity and breast cancer.

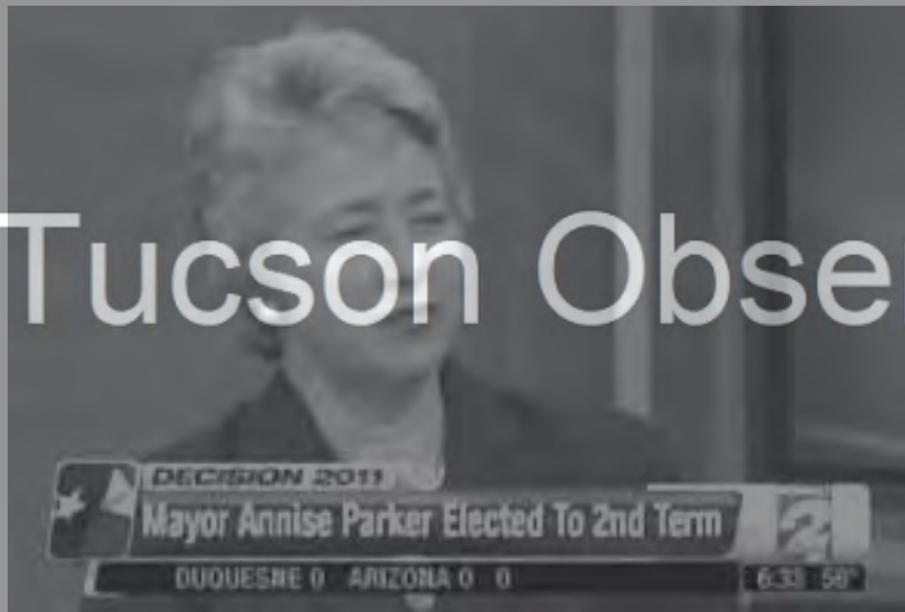
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Annise Parker Overcomes Anti-Gay Attacks To Win Second Term As Houston Mayor



HOUSTON (Observer Update) - Annise Parker has overcome attacks based on her sexual orientation to win a second term as mayor of Houston. The 55-year-old, openly lesbian Parker on Tuesday narrowly avoided a runoff by securing more than 50 percent of the vote against her five challengers, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Parker, however, received a disappointing 50.8 percent of the vote - an unimpressive share when compared to previous incumbents and her campaign's \$2.3 million price tag. One of her rivals, Houston businessman Dave Wilson, routinely criticized Parker for promoting a "homosexual agenda."

In a fundraising letter sent to supporters in July, Wilson said he knows of the incredible pain and sorrow that being "ensnared and trapped in homo-

sexual behavior" has brought family members and friends. "Religious freedom will be stifled and millions more will be trapped as the demand for legal and political approval for homosexual behavior increases."

Wilson's attack, however, backfired as sympathetic donors rushed to Parker's side after she highlighted his remarks in a fundraising letter of her own. In 2009, Wilson paid for 35,000 fliers calling on voters to reject Parker because she's gay. Parker, who along with partner Kathy Hubbard is raising two adopted daughters and has raised a foster son, extended the city's anti-discrimination protections to include gender identity (transgender protections) during her first term as mayor.

Washington Lawmakers to Introduce Gay Marriage Bill

OLYMPIA (Observer Update) - Dozens of state lawmakers in Washington are expected next week to introduce a bill that would legalize gay marriage in the state. Democratic state Senator Ed Murray from Seattle is the chief sponsor of the bill. State Rep. Jim Moeller announced he would join the effort, reports ontopmag.com.

"Let's trust adults to make the call - not any state office, agency or bureaucracy - when it comes to adult decisions such as marital vows," Moeller, an openly gay Democrat from Vancouver, said in a statement. "Our objective is to strengthen the social and legal protections for average mainstream Washington families - the men, women and their children who make their homes in our communities and neighborhoods," he said.

Murray, who is also openly gay, has previously sponsored bills shoring up the state's domestic partnership law. The latest expansion approved in 2009 gives gay and lesbian couples all the legal protections of marriage. Lawmakers in 1998 approved a law that defines marriage in Washington as a heterosexual union. It survived a legal challenge in 2006.

During a recent interview with National Public Radio (NPR), Murray said the recent passage of such a law in New York had renewed momentum in Washington. "I think the public is now

with us. And that's why I think we should move it in the Legislature. And that's why we waited. That's why we did domestic partnership first; the public wasn't with us yet. I think they are there now." "I think we've changed hearts and minds," Murray told MyFox 28.

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David Testo, Former Montreal Impact Soccer Star, Comes Out As Gay

MONTREAL (Observer Update) - An American-born professional soccer player now joins the ranks of other acclaimed LGBT athletes in coming out as gay, towleroad.com reports. As the CBC Radio-Canada is reporting, 30-year-old David Testo, who played with the Montreal Impact team from 2007 until last month and won the team's Most Valuable Player award two years ago, announced this week that he is gay and "really regrets" not coming out earlier.



saps all your energy to you, in addition to having to perform, having to play.

Testo, a North Carolina native, added that he was extremely sad he didn't feel comfortable enough to thank his partner when accepting his MVP award in 2009:

It's made me realize that life is so much greater than just soccer and winning and losing. It's about the relationships you build with the people around you. In the end, when you're laying down on your death bed, it's not about how much money you've made, how many wins you have, any of that. You want to know those connections you had to people and the difference you made in people's lives.

Outsports quotes Testo as saying: I'm gay, I'm gay. I did not choose. It's just part of who I am. And it has nothing to do with the talent of a soccer player. You can be both an excellent soccer player and being gay. ... I really regret not having said publicly earlier. I fought with it all my life, my whole career. Living the life of a professional athlete and being gay is incredibly difficult. It is like wearing a secret in his bags but never yourself. It

Wyoming Football Coach Quits Over Survey Asking Players If They Are "Queer" Or Have "Woman-Like Hormones"

BUFFALO (Observer Update) - Towleroad.com reports that Pat Lynch, the football coach of Buffalo High School in Wyoming resigned this week after it was revealed he had handed out an offensive "Hurt Feelings Report" to players which included boxes for them to check with attributes



Pat Lynch

like "I am a pussy", "I am a queer", "I am a little bitch", and "My butt is easily hurt."

Said Lynch in a resignation letter to the school board, according to the Buffalo Bulletin:

"I would like to apologize for my lack of judgment and the poor choice that I made from my position as head

football coach for Buffalo High School. I know that this situation has caused you pain and discomfort, and for that I am truly sorry. As a person and a professional, I believe I will learn and grow from this experience and use it to help others. I appreciate having had the opportunity to coach in this community for the past 22 years. It has been a rewarding experience. I am eager to earn back your trust as I continue to serve in a profession that I truly love."

Despite his resignation as football coach and weight room supervisor, Lynch is being allowed to remain on at the school as a guidance counselor, the Casper Tribune reports. (because I'm sure all the LGBTQ kids will feel comfortable talking to him)

HURT FEELINGS REPORT

DATE: _____

TIME OF HURTFULNESS: _____ AM/PM

A. Which ear were words of hurtfulness spoken into: LEFT / RIGHT / BOTH

B. Is there permanent feeling damage: YES / NO

C. Did you require a tissue for the tears: YES / NO

Reasons for filing this report. (Check Box)

1. I am thin skinned

2. I am a pussy

3. I have woman like hormones

4. I am a queer

5. I am a little bitch

6. I am a cry baby

7. I want my mommy

8. My butt is easliy hurt

9. All of the above

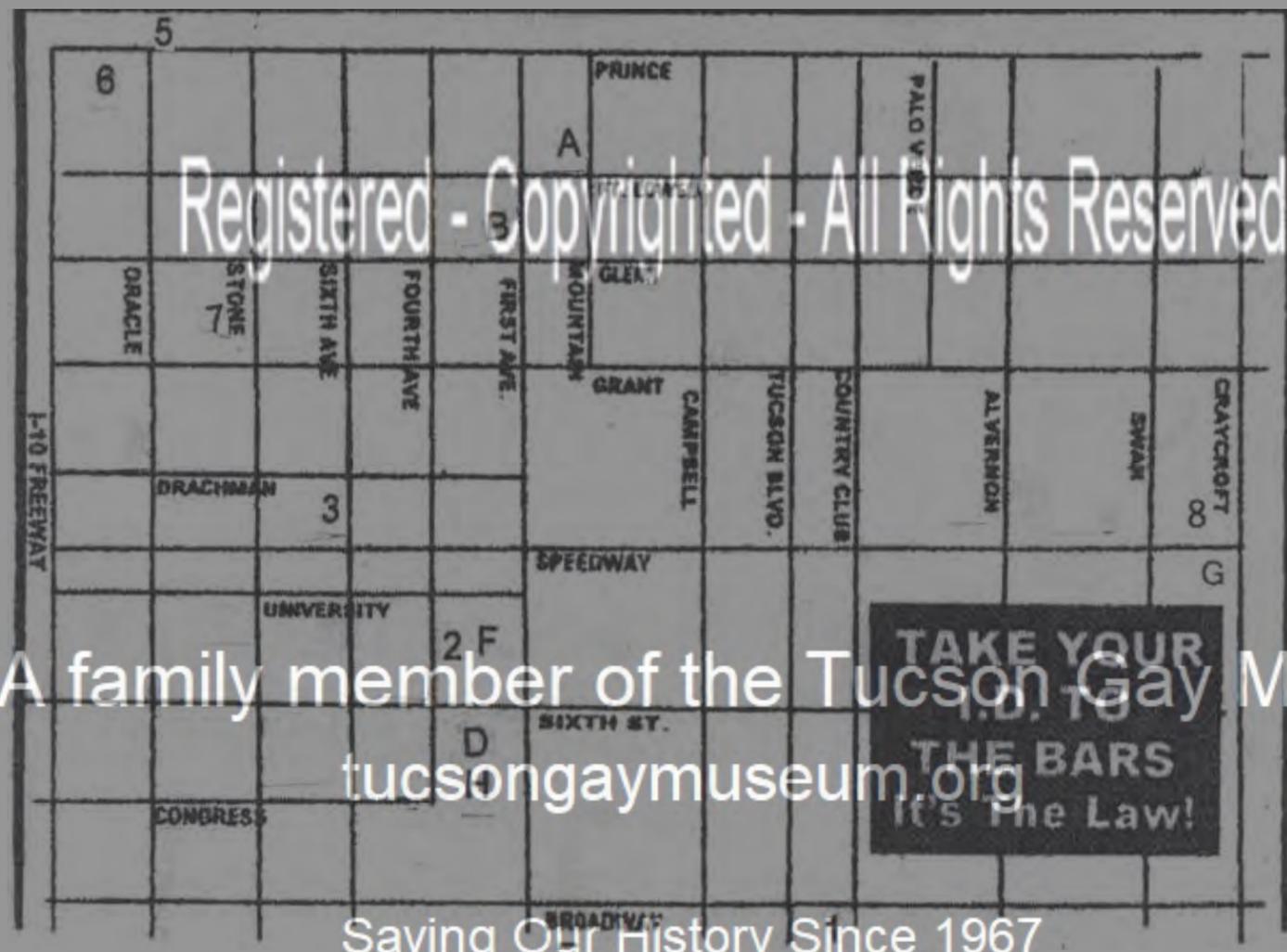
Name of "Real Man" who hurt your sensitive little feelings: _____

We, as a company, take hurt feelings very seriously. If you don't have a mommy that can give you a hug and make it all better, please let your supervisor know and we can provide you with a surrogate. If you need them, diapers, midol and a "blanky" can also be supplied.

Name little sissy filing report: _____

Girly-man signature: _____ Supervisor: _____

Real-man signature: _____ (person being accused)



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COMMENTARY . . .

by Dorothy Samuels

A Long, Winding Road to Marriage Equality

The fight for gay rights won important victories in the past few months. In July, it became legal for same-sex couples to marry in New York State. September saw the official end of the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy that prevented gay people from serving openly in the military. On Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved a bill that would repeal the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, the law that bars the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages.

If only this were the whole picture. But this remains a country where discrimination against gays is enshrined in most state constitutions. While all the Democrats on the Senate committee supported repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act, the chances of repeal anytime soon are very slim. And even if Congress got rid of the act, the ban against same-sex marriage – a denial of equal rights to an entire group of Americans – would still be the law in most parts of the nation.

Twenty-nine states have enacted constitutional amendments blocking same-sex marriage. In 18 of those states, the amendments also ban domestic partnerships or civil unions. Twelve states bar same-sex marriage by statute, and in two, Minnesota and North Carolina, anti-gay-marriage constitutional amendments will go before voters next year. At this point, nearly 60 percent of Americans live in places that do not protect gay couples in any way.

With New York, same-sex marriage is still allowed in only six states and the District of Columbia. Only 13 states provide some recognition of gay relationships with broad domestic partnerships or more limited rights, for things like medical decisions and inheritance (this includes 11 states with constitutional amendments or statutes barring gay marriage).

Even limited progress has brought some pushback. In New Hampshire, for example, there is now a Republican effort to repeal the 2009 law that legalized same-sex marriage. Last year, Iowa voters removed three State Supreme Court justices who were part of a 2009 ruling that the state’s same-sex marriage ban violated equal protection.

Still, the views of Americans are changing, and quickly. The chart below, based on polling over the years by Gallup, shows that attitudes about same-sex marriage have shifted substantially since 1996.

Back then, only 27 percent of Americans said they favored recognizing same-sex marriages and two-thirds said they were opposed. A survey in May showed 53 percent of Americans now support extending marriage to gays – the first such majority recorded by Gallup tracking. This year’s nine-percentage-point increase over last year’s approval number was also a record, perhaps driven by the national debate over the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy and California’s Proposition 8, which bars same-sex marriage and is under challenge in a well-publicized court case.

Behind these numbers is a remarkable generational divide. Some 70 percent of Americans between 18 and 34 support marriage equality, up from 54 percent in 2010, according to Gallup. Support among people aged 35 to 54 is 53 percent, falling to 39 percent for those 55 and older. This widening gap between public opinion and discriminatory laws means anti-gay forces will have a harder and harder time selling their views.

A repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act and changes in state laws could lead to expanded rights for gay couples in more states. But revoking those state constitutional bans would take years, if not decades. Until then, rank discrimination under law will persist.

The Supreme Court may soon have a chance to sweep away the injustice in several pending cases that challenge these laws. Just as it ruled unanimously in 1967 that laws barring interracial marriage violated due process and equal protection under the Constitution, it must affirm the civil rights of gay people.

(Samuels wrote this for the New York Times, for which this is reprinted from.)

Openly Gay Judicial Nominee Withdraws His Nomination

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - Openly gay judicial nominee Edward DuMont has asked President Barack Obama to withdraw his nomination to serve as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, D.C. gay weekly Metro Weekly reported. Obama first nominated DuMont over 18 months ago. But a reported Senate backlog on judicial nominations has kept DuMont from even receiving a committee hearing on his nomination, ontopmag.com reports.

If confirmed, DuMont would become the first openly gay appellate judge in the nation. “I was honored when you nominated me to serve as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and again when you resubmitted my nomination in January of this year,” DuMont wrote in a November 4 letter to Obama. “I have likewise been gratified by the support my nomination has received, both from professional organizations and from a bipartisan array of colleagues who know me and are familiar with my qualifications.”

“My understanding is that this inaction results from opposition on the part of one or more members of the Committee minority,” he added, referring to the



Judge Edward DuMont

lack of a committee hearing.

“Under these circumstances, drawing the process out further does not seem either sensible for me or fair to the Federal Circuit, which has important work to do and deserves to be able to address it with a full complement of active judges.”

Detroit Teen’s Body Went Unidentified, Unclaimed



Henry Hilliard, Jr. aka ‘Treasure’

DETROIT (Observer Update) - The body of a missing transgender teenager in Detroit had lain in a morgue for weeks unclaimed, the Detroit Examiner reports.

Henry Hilliard Jr., 19, who went by the names Shelly or Treasure, had disappeared October 23, and her burned torso, which had been dumped on the east side of Detroit, was identified by the medical examiner’s office Thursday.

“With no identification on the body, Hilliard was taken to the morgue, where her body stayed until police sent a media advisory last week with Hilliard’s information, including the description of a cherry tattoo,” writes an Examiner contributor, who goes on to wonder, “How could a body just be sent to the morgue without news coverage of a badly burnt body was ever found?”

Meanwhile, Hilliard’s mother, Lyniece Nelson, told the Detroit Free Press she is mourning and waiting for answers from the police, who are investigating the case as a homicide. Hilliard will be memorialized at a Transgender Day of Remembrance event at Detroit’s Central United Methodist Church.

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Poet's Corner

THE MESSAGE

BY Ron Rose - Tucson

No drama Obama
 Leave that for your foes They
 don't know 'bout "yeeses" They
 know only "no's"
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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!

Indian Official Makes Gay Slur

NEW DELHI - India's health minister derided homosexuality as a n unnatural "disease from the West at an HIV/AIDS conference, drawing an outrage from a U.N. official and activists who said the comments set back campaigns for gay rights and against HIV reported the Associated Press.

In a hastily called news conference, health minister Ghulam Nabe Azad said he was misquoted, though his speech has aired repeatedly on Indian television.

Some people have played with the words. I have been quoted out of context," he said. "My reference was to HIV as a disease. As health minister, I know (male homosexual sex is not a disease."

His original speech echoed a common refrain in the conservative South Asian nation that homosexuality is a Western import.

"It is a matter of concern that, unfortunately, in the world and in our country this disease has arisen where men are having sex with men, which is unnatural and should not be happening," Azad said, speaking in Hindi.

Anjali Gopalan, who heads the NAZ Foundation, a rights group that works with HIV-positive people and promotes equal rights for homosexuals, said Azad's initial comments were deeply troubling coming from the health minister of a country fighting a tough battle against HIV infections.

"These comments help no cause. It's definitely not going to help in our fight against HIV," she told The Associated Press.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and a slew of government ministers were present at the U.N. special raporteur on health.

"His remarks are completely insensitive. It losers the dignity of the gay community," he said.

Roughly 2.5 million Indians have HIV.

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Obama Administration Backs Lesbian Worker's Lawsuit

SAN FRANCISCO - Associated Press reports that in a strongly worded legal brief, the Obama administration has said the federal act that defines marriage as being between a man and a woman was motivated by hostility toward gays and lesbians and is unconstitutional.

The brief was filed in federal court in San Francisco in support of a lesbian federal employee's lawsuit claiming the government wrongly denied health insurance coverage to her same-sex spouse.

The Justice Department says Karen Golinski's suit should not be dismissed because the law under which her spouse was denied benefits - the Defense of Marriage Act - violates the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection.

"The official legislative record makes plain that DOMA Section 3 was motivated in large part by animus toward gay and lesbian individuals and their intimate relationships and Congress identified no other interest that is materially advanced by Section 3" the brief reads, referring to the section in the act that defines marriage as being between a man and a woman.

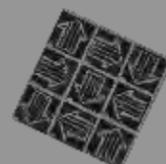
Though the administration hs previously said it will not defend the marriage act, the brief is the first court filing in which it urges the court to find the law unconstitutional, said Tobias Barrington Wolff, a law professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

"This brief represents the concrete manifestation of a complete paradigm shift in the federal government's position on anti-gay discrimination and the constitutional rights of married same-sex couples," Wolff said in a phone interview/.

The brief argues that gays and lesbians have been subject to a history of discrimination by federal, state and local governments and private parties. It also lays out the administration's position that sexual orientation is an "immutable characteristic," that gays and lesbians are, minorities with limited political power and that sexual orientation has no bearing on someone's ability to contribute to society and advances no legitimate policy interest.

"It's quite powerful to have the administration saying in a court filing that this kind of discrimination should be viewed suspiciously," said Tara Borelli, an attorney for Golinski.

Attorneys for a U.S. House of Representatives group that has stepped in to defend the marriage act's constitutionality in the Golinski case did not immediately respond to media requests for comment.



Daily Bar Calendar

SUNDAY

COLORS - Open 10am-10pm. Champagne Brunch 10-2 with your choice of a complimentary Mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver. Happy Hour 3-7. \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic & Well, 1/2 price appetizers from 4-6. Dinner served until 10pm.

IBT's - Happy Hour Noon-9pm. Karaoke on the Patio 4-8:30pm. Benefit BBQ Beer Bust, (\$5 for Burger/Hot Dog, Veggie Burger, chips, Pickle Spear & 2 Pints of Bud/Bud Light or a soda/bottle water), "Cheap Ass Sundays" 9pm-Close, Karaoke Inside 9pm. Dancing on the Patio w/Sj Sid the Kid 9pm

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

COLORS - Open 11am-10pm. Lunch served 11-3, 1/2 price appetizers 3-6. Happy Hour 3-7 \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic & Well. Dinner served until 10pm. Nightly Specials.

IBT's - Happy Hour Noon-8pm. 8pm-close Reverse Happy Hour. Dance to all request music w/DJ Hurricane or Lounge on the patio 9pm.

NEW MOON - Closed Mondays

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Service Industry Night - Employee prices all day..

TUESDAY

COLORS - Open 11am - 10pm. Lunch served 11-3, 1/2 price appetizers 3-6. Happy Hour 3-7 \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic & Well. Dinner served until 10pm. Nightly Dinner Specials.

IBT's - Happy Hour Noon-8pm, T-Bar Tuesdays Drink Specials 9pm-Close. Mix-n-Match Mexican Beer Specials, Tequila Specials (Patron \$6, Milagro \$4.50, Hornitos \$4, Cuervo \$3.50), Million \$ DJ Inside 9pm. Taco Tuesdays 2nd & last Tuesday of the month.

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

COLORS - Open 11am - 10pm. Lunch served 11-3, 1/2 price appetizers 3-6. Happy Hour 3-7 \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic & Well. Dinner served until 10pm. Nightly Dinner Specials.

IBT's - Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "Viva La Diva" Drag Show hosted by Janee Starr 9pm. DJ Hurricane on the Patio 9pm, \$3-42-Below Vodka Drink Special 9pm - Close, Million \$ DJ Inside after the Drag Show.

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

COLORS - Open 11am - CLOSE. Lunch served 11-3, 1/2 price appetizers 3-6. Happy Hour 3-7 \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic & Well. Dinner served until 10pm. Nightly Dinner Specials. Melody Louise performs 6-9

IBT's - Happy Hour Noon-8pm, Therapt every Thursday. 2-4-1 Drink Specials (excludes top shelf). DJ Sid the Kid inside 9pm. Million \$ DJ on the Patio 9pm. GoGos dancing at 11pm.

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

COLORS - Open 11am - 10pm. Lunch served 11-3, 1/2 price appetizers 3-6. Happy Hour 3-7 \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic & Well. Dinner served until 10pm. Nightly Dinner Specials. Finlandia Martinis \$5.50 all day. MELODY LOUISE performs 5:30-8:30. HONEYBAKED GLAM Comedy Drag Show at 9pm.

IBT's - Happy Hour Noon-9pm. Flawless Fridays. Karaoke Inside 5-9pm. "Absolutely Flawless" Drag Show hosted by China Collins 9:15pm. DJ Hurricane Inside 9pm. Million \$ DJ on the Patio 9pm. GoGo Boys 11pm.

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

COLORS - Open 11am - 10pm. Lunch served 11-3, 1/2 price appetizers 3-6. Happy Hour 3-7 \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic & Well. Dinner served until 10pm. Nightly Dinner Specials.

IBT's - Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 9pm Karaoke on the Patio 5-8pm. "Saturday Night Starrlett's" hosted by Janee Starr 9pm. Million \$ DJ on the Patio 9pm. DJ Hurricane Inside after the Drag Show.

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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First Post-DADT Veterans Day a Special One

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - Gay and lesbian veterans and active-duty troops across the nation held special observances Friday - Nov. 11, the first Veterans Day since the lifting of "don't ask, don't tell."

New York City's LGBT Community Center hosted a reception for veterans. "This is the place where our community comes to celebrate our victories, and the end of 'don't ask, don't tell' is a huge victory for the gay, lesbian, bisexual community," Glenda Testone, executive director of the center, told NY1 News.

The law, enacted in 1993 under President Bill Clinton, allowed gays and lesbians to serve only if they didn't reveal their sexual orientation and was supposed to prevent investigations of gay troops, but it still resulted in many discharges. Some of the veterans attending the reception had served in the pre-DADT days, when there was an even stricter antigay ban.

"I served for 10 years from 1968 to '78, first in the U.S. Navy and later in the United States Army Reserve," said Denny Meyer, a member of American Veterans for Equal Rights. "In those days, we served in silence. That's the term. And with all the homophobic banter and stuff like that, you couldn't say a word, because in those days you could be killed and dishonorably discharged. Now it's all different."

On the West Coast, in the heavily military city of San Diego, gay and lesbian troops were happy to participate in the city's annual veterans parade. Gay vets have participated for more than 10 years, but with the past year's repeal of DADT, active-duty troops were "able to march proudly - in uniform if they wish," the San Diego Gay and Lesbian News reported. Lesbian veteran Evelyn Thomas was an honorary grand marshal. She quoted Bob Dylan to the paper, saying, "The times, they are a-changinging."



Gay Marriage Ban DOMA Repeal Bill Clears Senate Panel

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - A bill that would repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) has cleared a U.S. Senate committee, reports ontopmag.com.

The bill was approved along party lines, with all 10 Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee voting in favor and all 8 Republicans opposed.

The proposed bill would eliminate the 1996 law which bars federal agencies and the military from recognizing the legal marriages of gay and lesbian couples and allows states to ignore such unions.

In her remarks to the committee, California Senator Dianne Feinstein, the chief sponsor of the measure in the Senate, said DOMA needed to be repealed because the law affects thousands of gay couples.

"I believe it's pretty clear that the time has come to repeal DOMA. When DOMA was passed no one was affected because no one was legally married because no state had passed a law. That's changed now. We have 7 states, we have 131,000 married couples, and the discriminatory nature of DOMA is showing up throughout the business and professional communities of this country," Feinstein said.

Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley called Chairman Patrick Leahy's decision to bring the bill up for a vote "unwise" and went on to defend the law, saying denying gay couples the right to marry was not discriminatory.

"It's not about discriminating against anyone," Grassley told colleagues. "No society has limited marriage to heterosexual couples because of the desire to create second class citizens. This differs from the treatment of interracial marriages. Traditional marriage in many states until the 1960s was limited racially for reasons that had nothing to do with the creation of marriage as an institution and everything to do with racial discrimination. Loving vs. Virginian, which has been referenced a number of times, has nothing to do with gay marriage."

Texas Senator John Cornyn said he objected to the bill because repeal would increase the nation's debt.

"Repealing the Defense of Marriage Act would actually result in an expansion of federal benefits and spending at a time when we know that federal spending is way out of control and our entitlement programs are unsustainable. Repealing the Defense of Marriage Act would actually increase the cost of Social Security that's already insolvent," Cornyn said. "No one has paid into the Social Security system expecting benefits to be paid to same-sex couples"

Before the panel agreed to vote on the bill, Grassley announced that Republicans had decided not to offer any amendments to the bill.

However, passage in the committee looks to be as far as the bill will get any time soon. Feinstein has said she doesn't have the votes for Senate passage. And the issue is a non-starter in the House, where its speaker, John Boehner, a Republican from Ohio, has approved up to \$1.5 million to defend the law in court.

African Americans and Latinos Are Most Affected by HIV, New Report Shows

ATLANTA (Observer Update) - Just a few days before AIDS WALK Tucson and AIDS WALK's in other cities took place, the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published a report stating that African Americans and Hispanics are the groups most affected by HIV.

African Americans represent approximately 14 percent of the population in the United States and Hispanics make up approximately 16 percent of the population, according to 2010 census data. But the CDC report shows they are disproportionately affected by HIV - African Americans account for 44 percent of the 48,100 new HIV cases diagnosed in 2009, while Hispanics account for 20 percent of the new HIV cases. In 2009, African American men had the highest rates of new HIV cases (103.9 new cases for every 100,000 people), followed by Hispanic men (39.9) and African American women (39.7).

The CDC report also indicates that gay and bisexual men remain the most affected by HIV in the United States. Men who have sex with men (MSM) represent 2 percent of the population in the United States, but account for more than 50 percent of all new HIV cases recorded between 2006 and 2009, the CDC estimates.

"What we now see are more new cases of HIV/AIDS among members of the male gay community between the ages of 13 and 24," said Vallerie D. Wagner, director of AIDS Project Los Angeles. Emilio German, a CDC public health analyst, said that many Latinos get tested too late, when the infection has already progressed and treatment will be not as helpful. "The sooner you get tested, the more effective treatment is likely to be...you must remember that an HIV test can save your life," he said.

"The HIV/AIDS epidemic," German said, is "so diverse" that the disease differs among men coming from Mexico, Central America, Cuba and South America. "CDC data indicates that Puerto Ricans are more likely to be infected by an intravenous drug user (IDU) or high-risk heterosexual contact than Latinos born in other places," he said.

The major obstacles for Latinos who suffer from HIV/AIDS, German added, include "cultural ignorance, lack of knowledge of the English language, stigmatization, discrimination, chauvinism, drug use and sexual relations with multiple partners."

