

Survey Shows Americans Are Pro Same-Sex Marriage, But Conflicted Over Abortion Views

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Americans, regardless of generation, are deeply conflicted as they wrestle with the legality and morality of abortion, with a substantial majority identifying themselves as both "pro-choice" and "pro-life," according to a sweeping new survey, reported the AP on advocate.com.

While a solid majority - 56 percent - says abortion should be legal in most or all cases, 52 percent say abortion is morally wrong.

The detailed and nuanced findings were released by the Public Religion Research Institute, based on a survey of 3,000 adults - one of the largest ever to focus on Americans' views of abortion. The survey devoted particular attention to the views of young adults. It noted that 18-to-29-year-olds are far more likely than their elders to support same-sex marriage, but found there is no comparable generation gap regarding abortion.

In addition to its many new findings, the survey tracked other polls over the past 12 years to highlight a sharp discrepancy in attitudes toward the two most prominent hot-button issues of the culture wars. Views on abortion have been stable, with 56 percent of Americans telling Gallup pollsters this year that it should be legal in most or all cases compared to 57 percent who said that in 1999. In contrast, support for same-sex marriage has surged - from 35 percent in 1999 to 53 percent in 2011, according to Pew Research Center polls.

A key factor in that discrepancy relates to attitudes of the so-called millennials between the ages of 18 and 29. "Millennials strongly support gender equality and rights for gay and lesbian people," the survey said. "However ... younger Americans are no more supportive of abortion rights than the general population."

For example, 57 percent of millennials favor same-sex marriage, compared to 32 percent of baby boomers aged 50 to 64. Yet when asked about abortion, support for legal abortions was virtually the same - 60 percent among millennials, 59 percent among boomers.

Ambivalence was reflected in other responses from millennials: 68 percent said legal abortions should be available from health professionals in their community, while only 46 percent said having an abortion is morally acceptable.

The Public Religion Research Institute, which conducted the survey with funding from the Ford Foundation, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization which studies the intersection of religion and public life. Its CEO, Robert P. Jones,

said both sides of the abortion debate were likely to find a mix of encouraging and discouraging findings in the new survey.

"At the end of the day, Americans are committed to the availability of abortion, and conflicted about its morality," he said in an interview. "I would call it a stable tension."

One notable finding pertains to the labels "pro-choice" and "pro-life" - which are widely used by rival advocacy groups and are presented as either/or choices in most polls.

In the new survey, 70 percent of respondents said the term "pro-choice" describes them somewhat or very well, and nearly two-thirds similarly embraced the term "pro-life."

Nineteen percent said abortion should be legal in all cases and 37 percent said it should be legal in most cases. Fourteen percent said it should be illegal in all cases; 26 percent said it should be illegal in most cases.

With the exception of white evangelical Protestants, majorities of major religious groups - including Roman Catholics - favor legalized abortion, according to the survey. Only 29 percent of white evangelicals said abortion should be legal in most or all cases.

The findings reflect a "decoupling" of the debates over abortion and same-sex marriage, according to Jones, who predicted the two issues "will increasingly go forward on their own tracks."

He noted that focus groups of millennials convened as part of the survey tended to depict same-sex marriage - but not abortion - in positive terms. "Abortion is just a different kind of issue, even for those who support it," Jones said. "It's not the kind of issue that one celebrates."

The findings mesh with recent commentary by some conservative leaders, who feel they can compete vigorously for the backing of young people on abortion issues but acknowledge setbacks in opposing same-sex marriage.

"We're losing on that one, especially among the 20- and 30-somethings," said Jim Daly, president of Focus on the Family, in a recent interview with World Magazine. "I don't know if that's going to change with a little more age - demographers would say probably not."

White House To Host Pride Celebration On June 29



WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - The White House plans to host a reception on June 29 to commemorate the month as Pride, the Washington Blade has learned.

Two sources who are familiar with the event, and agreed to speak on condition of anonymity, said invitees were told to come June 29.

A White House official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said the celebration would take place before the month is out, but didn't confirm the date and said further information isn't yet available.

Leslie Kantor, national director of education for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said the surge of young adults' support for same-sex marriage could be explained by the fast pace of gay-rights political change and by the prevalence of gay characters and celebrities on TV and in other media.

"For young adults, the vast majority know someone in their life who is gay," Kantor said. "There's no comparable coming out process related to abortion - even though by age 45 one-third of American women will have had one."

Angela Ferrell-Zabala, who does abortion-rights outreach on college campuses for the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, said young adults' attitudes may be affected somewhat by campaigns depicting abortion as shameful.

But as many legislatures toughen state restrictions on abortion, she contends there are signs of an abortion-rights backlash. "I'm seeing young people reaching out, who are outraged by these attacks," she said.

"Later this month, the White House will hold a reception to observe LGBT Pride month," the official said. "Further details will be provided at a later date."

The White House has hosted Pride celebrations in June for each of the two previous years in which President Obama has been in office.

For the reception in 2009, national LGBT leaders came from around the country to attend the event. The attendees for the reception in 2010 were made up of LGBT youth and leaders from state equality groups.

The survey was based on telephone interviews conducted between April 22 and May 8 among a random sample of 3,000 adults in the continental United States, including 750 who were interviewed on cell phones. The margin of error for the full sample is plus or minus 2 percentage points, and higher for subgroups.



UPDATE

Bisbee Pride This Weekend

BISBEE (Observer Update) - Come to the 7th Annual Bisbee Pride Weekend June 17-19, 2011.

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More information at bisbeepride.com.

Tucson Women's Chorus Open Rehearsals

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Tucson Women's Chorus (TWC) is enrolling new members. We perform a cappella chants, rounds and songs from around the world. No experience necessary. Membership is open to all women and girls accompanied by singing adult.

Your first visit is free. After that, there is a one time \$80 registration fee. Girls with singing adults are free. Scholarships are available. The TWC has weekly practices at two locations. You can attend either or both.

Central: Mondays, St. Mark's Presbyterian Church (3809 E 3rd St - 3 blocks south of Speedway, in 1st block west of Alvernon). Northwest: Thursdays, Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation (3601 W Cromwell Dr - east off Thornydale, north of Ina)

TWC is a nonprofit organization. Contact: Karleena Ravenwood, Founder/Director, 520-743-0991.

Tucson Murder Trial Opens

The trial of 18 year old Gabriel Soliz, the self confessed murderer of George Soto a 23 year old Gay man & former EON Youth Group member on Valentines Day this year started this Tuesday morning June 14th at 9am in the Pima County Superior Court in Room #375 (3rd floor) with Judge Godoy presiding. The accused has openly taunted the deceased's family-friends in court, however there appears to be no press coverage of the trial. One of Tucson's LGBT Museum historical researchers has been assigned to cover the proceedings for the historical record. The Case# is: CR20110664

Tuesday's hearing was transferred to Judge Howard Fell in room #475. The attorney asked for, and got approval by the judge for accused murderer 18 year old Gabriel Israel Soliz (a.k.a. Gabriel Bustamonte, a.k.a. Gabriel Obregon, a.k.a. Gabriel O' Bregon) to be examined asap in jail by 2ea medical doctors on his competency to stand trial. Next court date is for the judge's decision on the accused's 'Competency To Stand Trial' will be on Tuesday August 23rd at 9am in Judge Howard Fell's court room #475. The case is actually assigned to Judge Teresa Godoy (Room#375) and judge Fell was confused why he was the judge the accused was standing before today but made the decision to have the accused mentally evaluated. Prior to going to the next court date it would be wise to call 740-4200 about case #20110664 to confirm it's location that day.

It Gets Better Project Video-Making In Tucson

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The It Gets Better Project works to provide hope and the knowledge that a positive future is possible for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transexual teenagers by collecting videos of personal stories.

On June 18, from 9 am to 1 pm, at the Murphy-Wilmot Branch Library, 530 N. Wilmot, the library will have a video camera, laptops, and staff member available to help those who would like to make a video then upload it to the site.

"Many LGBT youth can't picture what their lives might be like as openly gay adults. They can't imagine a future for themselves. So let's show them what our lives are like, let's show them what the future may hold in store for them." - It Gets Better Project

Check out the book that was created by the project: It Gets Better: Coming Out, Overcoming Bullying, and Creating a Life Worth Living edited by Dan Savage and Terry Miller.

Susie Bright To Appear In Tucson June 15



Writer and sex educator Susie Bright will speak at Pima County Public Library's annual GLBT author event in June.

In celebration of Gay Pride Month, the Pima County Public Library's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Services Committee will host an evening with one of the country's foremost sex educators, activists, and writers; Susie Bright, author of Big Sex Little Death: A Memoir.

Susie Bright is the author of the national bestsellers Full Exposure and The Sexual State of the Union, as well as The Best American Erotica and Herotica series, which ushered in women's erotic publishing. She also co-founded and edited On Our Backs magazine.

This talk and reading will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday June 15 at The Loft Cinema, 3233 E. Speedway. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Bright will remain to sign books following the presentation, and her books will be available for sale.

The event is free and open to the public and is made possible through generous funding from the Friends of the Pima County Public Library. For additional information please check the Library's website at www.library.pima.gov or call 791-4010.

From the book jacket of Big Sex Little Death: A Memoir: "Susie Bright's real life is just as compelling-more compelling-than her sex life. And that's saying something." -Dan Savage

"I have a very scary feeling Susie Bright is not making any of this up. Guns, drugs, threesomes, socialist factionalism, a stabbing . . . all before she got her G.E.D.?" -Alison Bechdel, author of Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic

"Susie Bright is a one-woman counterculture, a teenaged socialist revolutionary turned Reagan-era sexual freedom fighter. In this bittersweet memoir, she recounts a life full of political and erotic adventures and betrayals, a life at once deeply subversive and totally American..." - Tom Perrotta, author of Little Children and The Abstinence Teacher

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Informing the Community
The Observer



COMMENTARY

BY WENDELL HICKS

The AIDS Epidemic - 30 Years Later

"In the period October 1980-May 1981, 5 young men, all active homosexuals, were treated for biopsy-confirmed pneumocystis carinii pneumonia at 3 different hospitals in Los Angeles, California. Two of the patients died. All 5 patients had laboratory-confirmed previous or current cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection and candidal mucosal infection."- Centers for Disease Control Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), June 5, 1981

This was the first report from the Centers for Disease Control of cases of men being infected with a mysterious virus. As we now know, these were some of the earliest reports of AIDS in the United States.

In 1981, I was 19 years old and living in East Texas. I was also just beginning to come to terms with being gay and starting the "coming out" process. As I watched this report on the news that evening, I remember feeling confused, scared, and uncertain of how this would affect me. All

of the cases identified had been connected to gay men (or, active homosexuals, as the report states). This was long before the days of 24-hour news coverage and the internet and I had very few places to turn for answers.

Over the coming years, this newly discovered virus would transform from being described as the "Gay Cancer" to what we know today as Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Unfairly and incorrectly stigmatized as a "Gay Disease", the United States government turned its back on the crisis and it would take almost 6 years for then-President Ronald Reagan to even say the word "AIDS" in public and during that time, many lives were unnecessarily lost. By April 1987, more than 41,000 had died from AIDS in the US and an additional 71,000 had been diagnosed with the disease.

During the 1980s, I saw so many healthy young men and women get sick and die. Over the years, I had lost so many close and cherished friends to this disease and I was certain that I was next, that my number would soon be up.

Desperate to take some control, I left a career in graphic design and started working for my first AIDS Service Organization in 1991. Since then, educating people about HIV & AIDS and helping those who are living with has been the thing that makes my heart sing. I often tell people that since I started in this field of work, there hasn't been a single day that I have not wanted to go to work, not a single moment when I have not been thrilled by the potential of what is possible and the power that each of us has to make a huge difference in our worlds.

As we look back at 30 years since the first AIDS diagnoses, it is vital that we: 1) Mark the great progress we have made; 2) Remember those who we have lost; 3) Continue to support people living with HIV & AIDS; and 4) Remind everyone that AIDS has not gone away.

We often refer to AIDS as the forgotten epidemic and this often doesn't feel too far from the truth. Largely marginalized in the mainstream media, more than 1.1 million people are living with HIV in the US today and HIV and AIDS are still vital topics of conversation if we are ever to realize a world with no new infections. While incredible strides forward have been made, we still have so far to go.

Thank you so much for all YOU do to help make a difference. SAAF is absolutely dependent on your support to continue to offer services to those living with HIV & AIDS and to educate and empower others to know their status and take control of their lives. Every day, we depend on people just like you to make an impact in our community and it is only because of your support that we are able to continue to create a healthier community through a compassionate and comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS.

(Wendell Hicks is the Executive Director of SAAF)

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voted much of his time to political activities surrounding social inclusion and gay rights.

"I was once an overweight bookworm who hid in the corner of my school library and wished I was invisible," he said. "My mother told me that I could do better and I hope to use this platform to convince other young people just how true this can be for them too."

The 40-year-old Manchester native was at one point "the highest paid British athlete in the world." Amaechi captained England's basketball team and led the squad to its first-ever international medal in basketball at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in 2006.

In 2007, Amaechi published an autobiography, *Man in the Middle*, which became a New York Times bestseller. In the memoir, the former NBA player came out of the closet and became a media sensation—as well as the target for ugly homophobic rants and jokes.

The distinguished awards are published twice a year, at the beginning of the New Year and on the Queen's official birthday. The Queen's New Year's Honours List 2011 awarded an MBE to another Black gay man. Fifty-year-old Aslie Pitter founded Britain's first gay football club and was recognized for his 20-year-fight against homophobia.

LONDON (Observer Update) - NBA basketball player-turned-social activist and entrepreneur John Amaechi has been awarded the Officer of Order of the British Empire for his services to sport and charity. The official announcement was today in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2011 list, reports The Independent.

Rod 2.0 beta reports that the now retired England international - who played for the Cleveland Cavaliers, Orlando Magic and the Utah Jazz - as well as leading European clubs, was also honoured for his work with troubled kids on both sides of the Atlantic. Amaechi set up a basketball centre in Manchester, worked with the Big Brothers mentoring scheme and de-

Three Of San Diego's Four Mayoral Candidates Are Gay Or Lesbian

SAN DIEGO (Observer Update) - Two of San Diego's four declared mayoral candidates are gay, as is a third candidate who has opened a campaign committee, reported the Pink Paper.

Republican District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis and Republican City Councilman Carl DeMaio, both openly gay, are officially in the race, and openly lesbian state Sen. Christine Kehoe, a Democrat, is officially exploring a run.

Two straight candidates have declared as well: Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher, a Republican and former Marine, and U.S. Rep. Bob Filner, D-San Diego.

The primary election will be June 5, 2012. If any candidate gets more than 50 percent of the vote, he or

she wins the mayoral race. Otherwise, the top two vote-getters will advance to a general-election runoff.

Pro-gay Republican Mayor Jerry Sanders can't run again because of term limits.

Sanders has attended several rallies against Proposition 8 and he testified in the federal case that led to the anti-same-sex-marriage amendment being struck down. That ruling now is on appeal.

San Diego has had more than its share of openly gay/lesbian officials over the years, including four City Council members, two state representatives, one state senator, a fire chief, a district attorney, an acting mayor, two mayoral spokesmen, a school board trustee, and five Superior Court judges.

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Morgan's Mea Culpa: Meeting With Gay Teens, Parents

Gay California Couple Challenges Federal Marriage Act



TRACY MORGAN

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - As part of his continued public apology, embattled 30 Rock star Tracy Morgan will film a PSA for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and meet with LGBT teens from the Ali Forney Center and return to Tennessee to make amends, reports advocate.com.

Morgan spoke with GLAAD president Jarrett Barrios and members of its staff today and "committed to meet this week in New York City with LGBT youth from the Ali Forney Center who have been hurt or left homeless by parental rejection as well as family members who have lost children to antigay violence," according to a statement released by GLAAD.

"Among those Morgan will meet include Elke Kennedy, the founder of Sean's Last Wish. Elke's son Sean was killed by antigay violence in 2007 at the age of 20 in South Carolina, when another man called him a f*ggot and punched him so hard it broke his facial bones and separated his brain from his brain stem. Since that day, Elke has traveled more than 140,000 miles to speak in states across the country about hate violence and bullying."

GLAAD also states that Morgan participate in in the organization's upcoming "Amplify Your Voice" PSA campaign to combat anti-LGBT bullying.

Morgan, in participation with GLAAD and the Tennessee Equality Project, will also return to Tennessee next week, where he will apologize to audience members who were offended by his remarks. Legislation currently pending in Tennessee that would ban educators from acknowledging that gay people exist while in the classroom.

Previously, Morgan says he would love a gay son even more than a straight one due to the difficulty he'd have in society, according to an interview with Russell Simmons on Global Grind.

Simmons begins the conversation by telling Morgan he was disappointed to read the comments the comic made about stabbing a gay son during his stand-up act in Nashville earlier this month.

Morgan replies that he thinks the reason he's successful is that he's unfiltered and that as a result he

sometimes says stupid things.

"The truth is if I had a gay son I would love him just as much as if he was straight... I might have to try to love even more because I know of the difficulty that he would have in society."

Simmons adds that having supported gay people for decades in their struggle for equality, he thinks Morgan is aware that he crossed the line. "However, I know you ... I know you very well," Simmons says. "And I know that deep down inside there is no hate in your heart."

"Of all the sicknesses, there is probably none more abusive than homophobia," Morgan says. "My heart is committed to giving everyone the same rights that I deserve for myself. I don't care if you love the same sex as long as you have the ability to love someone. Also, you should have the right no matter who you are to protect and serve our country. I am deeply sorry for the comments I made. What I am most sad about is the comments I made about kids and bullying."

Morgan says he realizes how hurtful his words were and isn't asking anyone to pity him or come to his defense. "In my heart, I know that the words I used are indefensible," Morgan says.

MAGALIA (Observer Update) - It was not the proudest moment of their married life, reported sacbee.com.

When Brenda and Lynda Ziviello-Howell found themselves in financial trouble earlier this year, they filed for joint bankruptcy as spouses.

Not so fast, said the U.S. Trustee, the federal agency that oversees such cases.

Just like that, the Ziviello-Howells found themselves in the thick of an ongoing battle over the legal rights of gay married couples.

In the eyes of the state of California, the Butte County women and 18,000 other same-sex couples who married during a brief window of opportunity in 2008 are entitled to all the joint benefits that go with their status. Four other states and the District of Columbia also recognize gay marriage.

But the federal government does not, leaving thousands of couples in legal limbo.

The landscape is beginning to change, legal specialists said, as couples like the Ziviello-Howells win small victories in court. A bankruptcy judge last month overrode the U.S. Trustee, finding the women were legally married and could go forward

with their case as spouses.

"Portions of the federal government's Defense of Marriage Act are crumbling, at least in the lower courts," said Brian K. Landsberg, a distinguished professor and scholar of constitutional law at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law.

The ultimate fate of the federal law, which defines marriage as between "one man and one woman," likely will rest with the U.S. Supreme Court, Landsberg said.

In the meantime, the federal government is sending mixed signals. In February, the Obama administration declared that it no longer would defend the Defense of Marriage Act in court. But until the law is struck down or repealed by Congress, federal agencies including the Internal Revenue Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Social Security Administration continue to enforce it.

The Butte County women, who married in Sacramento in 2008 before Proposition 8 banned such unions, are among the first same-sex couples to challenge bankruptcy laws. Similar cases are pending around the country.



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A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

Kentucky: Disabled Gay Couple Ejected From Pool



HAZARD (Observer Update) - A gay couple in Hazard, Ky., was ejected from a public recreation facility, sparking outrage from local LGBT organizations and allies.

The two men, who are reported to be developmentally and intellectually disabled, went to the pool at the Pavilion in Hazard, a city-owned facility. They were turned away by a maintenance technician, who told them, "We own this place and can tell you to leave if we want to."

Shirlyn Perkins, executive director of Mending Hearts Inc., said the two men are clients of her organization, which provides support for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. She said in a statement Monday that the Pavilion staff member used the Bible to urge the couple to leave the facility.

"My staff asked the Pavilion staff why they were being asked to leave, and they were informed that 'gay people' weren't allowed to swim there," she said. "My staff told this man that what he was trying to do was discrimination. The man stated that what he was doing was in the Bible and he could do it. My staff continued to argue with this man but was ultimately forced to leave. My clients, who already feel ridiculed and different, left the city-owned facility crying and embarrassed for trying to participate in 'normal' activities that everyday 'normal' people do."

Several organizations in Kentucky are planning to stage a protest at Hazard City Hall and at the Pavilion. The Kentucky Equality Federation's Will Taylor said, "The only way to stop the upcoming protest is an official apology for the way these people have been treated and immediate corrective action."

Lawsuit Filed Against Tenn. Anti-Gay Law

NASHVILLE (Observer Update) - Tennessee's recently enacted HB600, which made it virtually impossible for LGBT citizens to be protected from firing or eviction, will likely face a judge or jury.

Nashville attorney Abby Rubenfeld, the law firm of Morrison & Foerster, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights Monday filed suit against the law, which came in response to Nashville enacting workplace protections for LGBT people employed by city contractors. The new law rescinded those protections, but went further by making it so that no Tennessee city or county could establish protections for groups not covered by state protections - that includes not only LGBT people, but veterans and those with disabilities.

Additional plaintiffs in the suit against HB600 include Lisa Howe, the Belmont University soccer coach pressured to leave her job after she announced that she was having a child with her partner - Howe's termination served as impetus for the Nashville antidiscrimination ordinance, which itself served as motivation for HB600. Another plaintiff is Shirit Pankowsky, a senior at Martin Luther King Magnet High School and founder and president of MLK's gay-straight alliance. HB600 also stripped protections for gay people from Nashville

public schools - the law makes it impossible for new antibullying protections to be enacted.

"This law is contrary to core Tennessee values," Rubenfeld said in a statement. "Tennessee is the volunteer state - we help each other, we don't single out certain Tennesseans who are deemed unworthy of help. Our legislators abused their power by preventing localities from assisting their own citizens. Rather than considering what is best for our state, they passed a law based on disapproval of gay and transgender people, which the Tennessee and U.S. Constitutions do not permit."

The plaintiffs are indicating they will argue that HB600 goes counter to the 1996 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Romer v. Evans, which struck down a similar antigay initiative in Colorado.

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COMMENTARY...

30-Year AIDS Anniversary Reminds How Far We've Come, Still Need To Go

By Scott Blades

It was 30 years ago. Do you remember it? June 5, 1981: a 522-word article reporting that five gay men in their 20s and 30s in Los Angeles had died from a mysterious disease. It was a sign of things to come, the beginning of a pandemic that would become known as AIDS.

That article, published in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, hinted at a disease that would, in the following 30 years, infect 60 million people and kill more than 25 million children and adults.

It would devastate the people in sub-Saharan Africa. It would change the way we look at sex and practice sex. It would ignite a movement of empowerment for the LGBT community. It would catalyze fear and discrimination and hate. It would inspire acts of care and compassion, as well as medical research and advancements.

Thirty years, and yet still no cure. Thirty years, and the stigma continues to contribute to the spread of the disease. Throughout the past 30 years, a movement for care, education, justice and compassion emerged. There have been heroes in this fight, courageous people who have showed us the way.

Public figures who helped us address the stigma - Rock Hudson, Ryan White, Magic Johnson, Elizabeth Taylor.

Scientists and public-health officials who helped us learn and respond. Doctors and nurses and social workers and hospice providers and civil-rights lawyers who cared for communities and cared for individuals. Community-based groups - including the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) - that formed to provide systems of care and support for those in need.

And, most important, millions of people living with HIV, sharing their heroic struggles and challenges and triumphs.

I have 30 years of memories. Some memories bring pain and sadness, thoughts of loved ones lost and failures of leaders at all levels. Other memories bring smiles and an acknowledgement of miracles of life and medical developments that continue to provide hope.

My life has been deeply touched by HIV - by hundreds of lives of friends, lovers, family members whom I have lost because of this disease.

And I have been touched, too, in witnessing the response of caring people who have joined the fight to provide awareness, education, care and support. I have seen the people of TIHAN and our faith communities step forward and provide simple acts of heroism through 17 years of responding.

Let this milestone serve as a time of reflection and a time of a renewed commitment. Please consider offering your volunteer time to educate or help someone. Please consider making a donation in memory or in honor of someone who has touched your life over the past 30 years.

And please say a prayer that we, the people of 2011, will finally join

together and do what all our great religious traditions call us to do: care for those who are suffering, bind up the broken-hearted and love our neighbor as ourselves.

(Scott Blades is executive director of the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network. This is reprinted from the Arizona Daily Star.)



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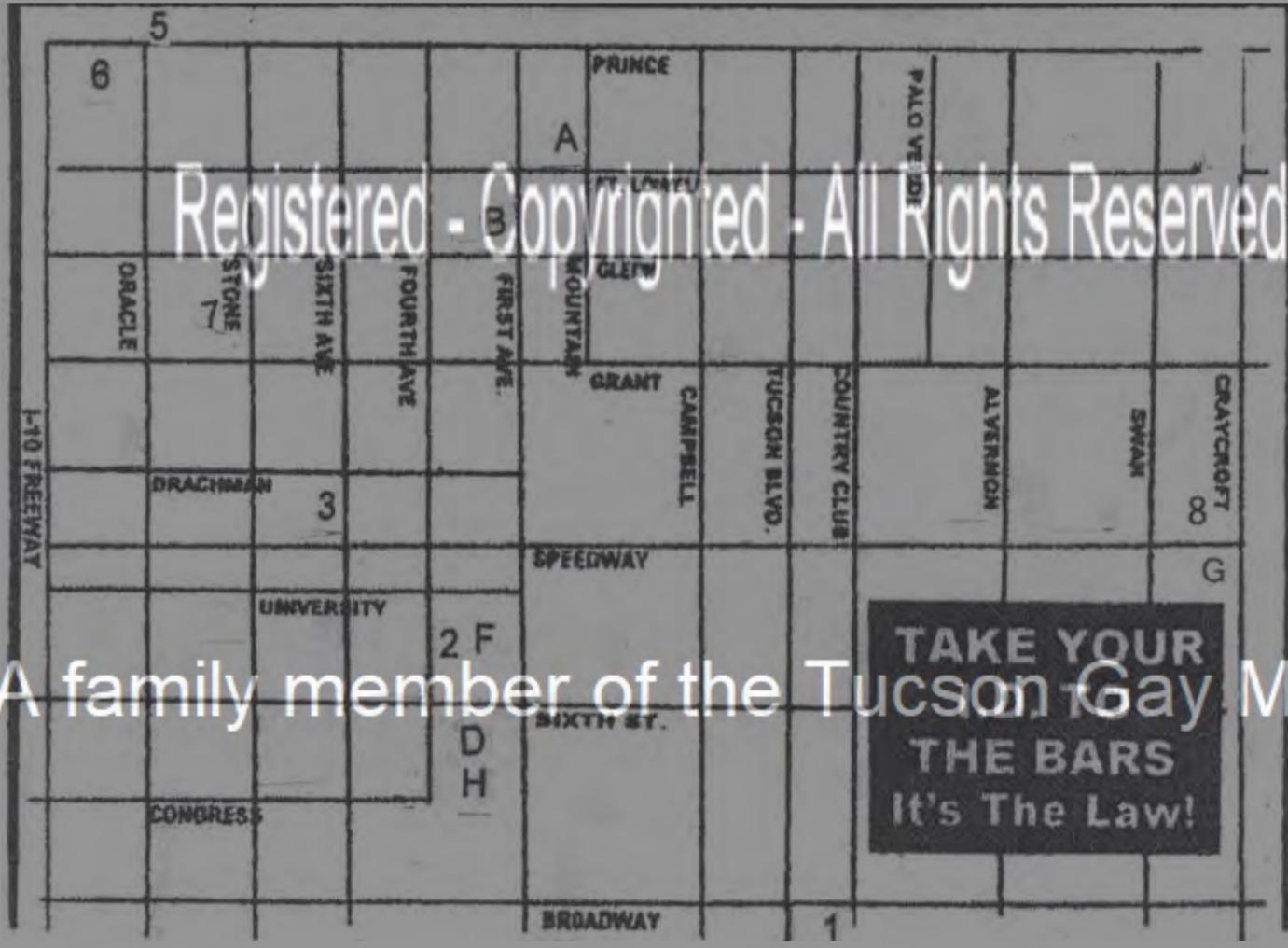
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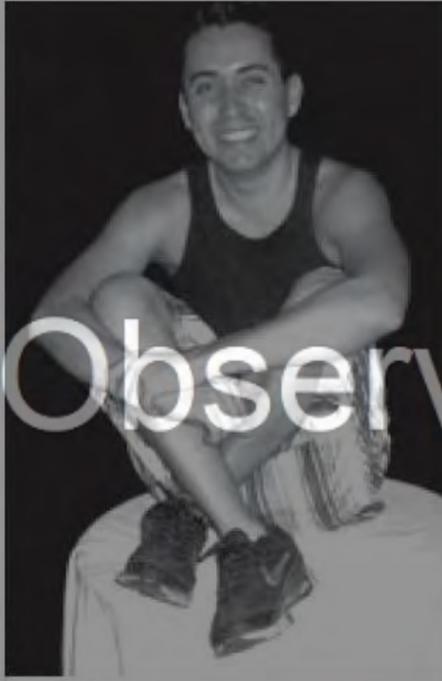
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Poet's Corner

THE MONGO MOOSE

by Ron Rose - Tucson

He is known as the antlered Monogo Moose
 Straying would put his horns in a noose.
 You can be sure he won't stray from his loyal mate
 So sordid affairs of the heart will have to wait.
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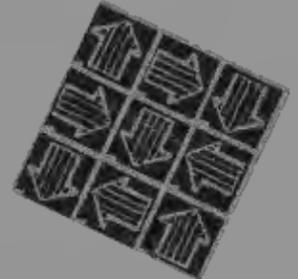
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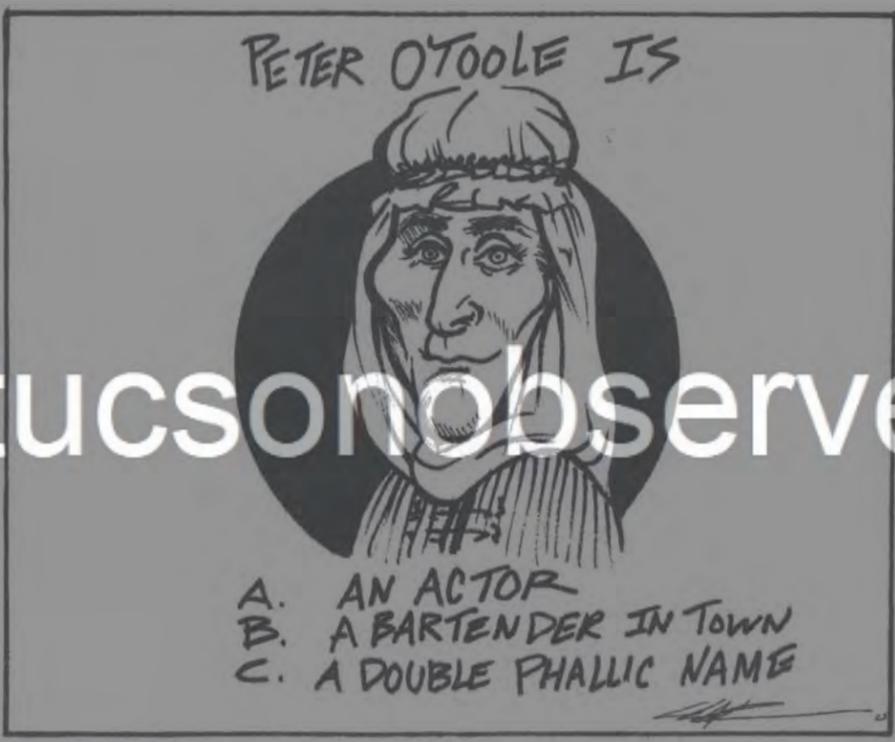


SAVE TUCSON'S LGBT HISTORY!

Contact the Tucson's LGBT Museum about
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Email: Tucson LGBT Museum@live.com

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!

Target To Get Feedback On Marriage Stance

MINNEAPOLIS (Observer Up-
 date) - Twin Cities Pride in Minneapolis-
 St. Paul, facing criticism for accepting
 sponsorship from Target Corp., is
 asking LGBT Minnesotans what they
 think of Target's "neutral" stance on the
 state's proposed anti-marriage equality
 measure and pledging to send the
 feedback to the company, The Minne-
 sota Independent reports.

Minneapolis-based retailer Tar-
 get has long been a sponsor of Twin
 Cities Pride and other LGBT groups and
 events, but its reputation among gays
 was tarnished last year by its donation
 to a political organization that supported
 antigay candidate Tom Emmer for
 Minnesota governor. He lost the race,
 and Target promised to scrutinize
 political contributions more closely.

Last week at the company's
 annual shareholders meeting, CEO
 Gregg Steinhafel said Target would not
 take a position on a measure that will go
 before voters in 2012, asking them to
 amend the Minnesota constitution to

ban same-sex marriage. "Our posi-
 tion at this particular time is that we
 are going to be neutral on that
 particular issue," he said, "as we
 would be on other social issues that
 have polarizing points of view."

Twin Cities Pride, which runs
 the annual Minneapolis-St. Paul
 pride festival and parade, responded
 by issuing a statement saying that its
 board of directors "was appalled" by
 Target's neutrality. Pride officials
 said they would educate Target
 about the amendment's implications
 and asked for input on Facebook.

Some of the comments have
 been supportive of Target, others
 highly critical. In the former category,
 one person wrote, "Yes, it is upsetting
 that they are 'neutral,' but given their
 strong internal non-discrimination
 policies I think we can take a 'we are
 disappointed but we'll wait and see.'" In
 the latter, one said, "Target is like
 getting medical care from someone
 who just shot you on purpose."

NEW YORK (Observer Up-
 date) - The widely acclaimed first
 Broadway production of Larry
 Kramer's classic *The Normal Heart*
 took three honors during the incredi-
 bly entertaining 65th Tony Awards
 ceremony, hosted by a spirited Neil
 Patrick Harris, who set the tone for
 the evening with his witty opening
 number by declaring, "Broadway ...
 it's not just for gays anymore!"

The *Normal Heart*, which
 was first produced off-Broadway in
 1985, made its official Broadway
 debut this spring, and chronicles the
 early years of the AIDS epidemic in
 New York City, won the Tony for
 Best Revival of a Play. *Heart* also
 won awards for Ellen Barkin (Best
 Performance by an Actress in a
 Featured Role in a Play) and John
 Benjamin Hickey (Best Performance
 by an Actor in a Featured Role in a
 Play).

The often irascible Kramer
 gave a heartfelt, though uncharac-
 teristically subdued, speech when
 he accepted (along with producer
 Daryl Roth) the award for Best
 Revival. "To gay people every-
 where, whom I love so dearly, *The
 Normal Heart* is our history," Kramer
 said. "I could not have written it had
 not so many needlessly died. Learn
 from it and carry on the fight. Let
 them know that we are a very special
 people, an exceptional people, and
 that our day will come."

Actress Tyne Daly paid
 tribute to famed writer Arthur Laurents

before introducing the In Memoriam reel,
 which remembered Broadway veterans
 who died during the past year, including
 Elizabeth Taylor and Lanford Wilson.

The evening's big winner, as
 predicted, was *The Book of Mormon*,
 the gleefully vulgar musical comedy
 about missionaries in AIDS-ravaged
 Africa, which won nine awards, including
 Best Musical.

Presenter Robin Williams, sport-
 ing a gray beard for his role in *Bengal
 Tiger* at the Bagdad Zoo, was perhaps
 referring back to Harris's opening
 number when he cracked, "This is an
 incredible room. The only beard here is
 on my face."

From his opening tune through
 his freestyle rap that closed the show,
 Harris proved to be an engaging host. A
 highlight was his comical one-upmanship
 number opposite former Tonys host
 Hugh Jackman, sung to the tune of
 several Broadway standards.



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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Closed Sunday, Monday, Tuesday
 BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am-8pm
 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm \$2 Well or Domestic Beer. Karaoke on the Patio 4-8:30pm. Burger BBQ 5-8pm + \$1 pint draft. 9pm-close Karaoke inside with Troy & \$1.50 Well or Domestic Beer, \$2.50 Call or Premium Beer. DJ Hurricane on the Patio.
 NEW MOON -
 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-8pm.
 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
 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 Q 9pm-close.
 NEW MOON -
 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
 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 -
 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 for 1) 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 -
 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 Q spinning inside & 10pm-close, DJ Mike Lopez with the "Party on the Patio".
 NEW MOON -
 WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm. .

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Gates: DADT Repeal Can Be Signed In June

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - Outgoing Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates said he would support certification of "don't ask, don't tell" repeal before he leaves his position June 30, should top officers of the service branches recommend he do so, the Associated Press reports on advocate.com.



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
ROBERT GATES

"I think people are pretty satisfied with the way this process is going forward," Gates said of the DADT repeal training process in an interview with the AP published. "I think people have been mildly and pleasantly surprised at the lack of pushback in the training."

DADT repeal advocates have urged the Obama administration to certify DADT repeal prior to Gates's departure. His likely successor, CIA director Leon Panetta, has explicitly stated his support for certifying repeal of the 1993 law, but questions remain as to whether repeal implementation could be delayed as a new secretary assesses whether criteria for certification have been met. An overwhelming majority of Senate Armed Services Committee members indicated that they would approve Panetta's nomination.

Should President Obama, Gates, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen certify repeal prior to Gates's departure, open service could be implemented by September.

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network executive director Aubrey Sarvis issued the following statement on Secretary Gates's remarks in the AP interview:

"SLDN is pleased to see Secretary Gates clearly state that he is prepared to certify 'don't ask, don't tell' repeal before he leaves his post at the end of the month. After nearly six months of preparation and training, we join the Secretary in expressing confidence that the military is, indeed, ready for open service. Hopefully, with the bulk of the training completed in all of the services, the service chiefs are rapidly approaching the point where they can officially recommend to the [Joint Chiefs of Staff] Chairman Michael Mullen, Secretary Gates, and to the President that the time has come to make the long anticipated certification. The time to certify 'don't ask, don't tell' repeal is on Secretary Gates' watch."

Servicemembers United executive director Alex Nicholson issued the following statement:

"The Pentagon has been very thorough and deliberate in its training and preparation for the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' and the time to move forward on repeal has arrived. Senior defense leaders have said all

along that the force does not need to be one hundred percent trained before certification can occur. Given that there have been absolutely no major problems with this process, there is no reason that the U.S. military would not be ready for certification and ultimate repeal immediately prior to Secretary Gates' departure."

Rules Get Revised On How Medicaid Treats Gay Couples



KATHLEEN SEBELIUS

Under the direction of Health and Human Services secretary Kathleen Sebelius, states are expressly given the freedom to treat gay couples just like any other couple, who would be afforded protections from losing their home in order to pay the bills.

"Low-income same-sex couples are too often denied equal treatment and the protections offered to other families in their greatest times of need," said Sebelius in a statement announcing clarification of federal requirements. "This is now changing. Today's guidance represents another important step toward ensuring that the rights and dignity of every American are respected by their government."

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - When one partner is in a nursing home and the tab is being paid by Medicaid, no longer should the other partner be put at risk of becoming homeless, the federal government announced.

Read more about the specific guidelines from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the letter sent to states.



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