


**NATIONAL news**

The Joseph Landry Salon



602 SE 38th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97214  
503.231.3922  
Wed - Sat

**PAUL MITCHELL**

**it's ME!**  
wigs



breast forms, bras & more  
trans friendly

susan johnson owner/fitter  
2041 ne burnside, gresham  
503/491-5110 ~ www.shopitsme.com



**Michael Paduano**

As a native Seattle resident, I have a full understanding of your Sunshine needs. Allow me the opportunity to reveal the beauty, warmth and value of Palm Springs and the entire Coachella Valley. View my listings at [www.michaelpaduano.com](http://www.michaelpaduano.com). Email [mpaduano@winderemere.com](mailto:mpaduano@winderemere.com)

850 N Palm Canyon Drive  
Palm Springs  
CA 92262  
760/831-3761  
or 877/718-5600 ext 113



**Winderemere**  
Coachella Valley

**Drive with Pride**

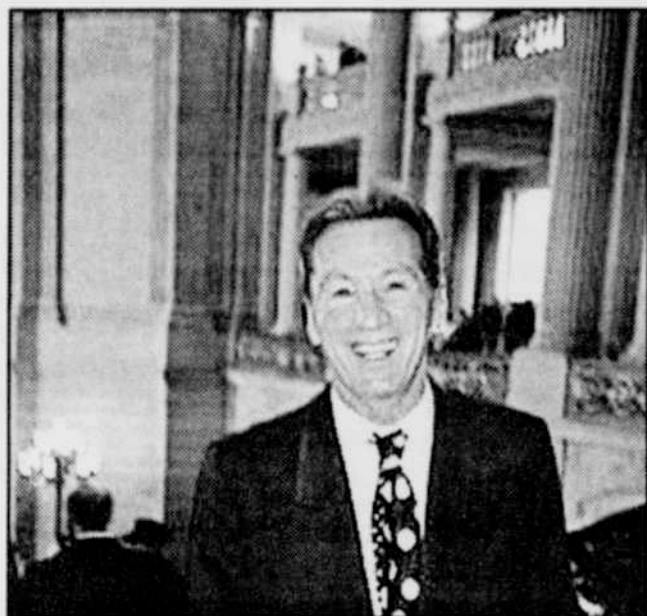


Visit us online at:  
[www.reyreece.com](http://www.reyreece.com)  
or schedule your appointment

**503-256-3700**

**REY REECE DEALERSHIPS**  
ISUZU-VOLKSWAGEN-USED

122nd & East Burnside  
[www.reyreece.com](http://www.reyreece.com)



San Francisco voters will face "an abundance of riches" this fall thanks to openly queer mayoral candidates Tom Ammiano and Susan Leal

**CALIFORNIA**

The Assembly Appropriations Committee heard testimony April 30 on a key domestic partner bill that would significantly expand the rights, responsibilities and obligations of registered domestic partners in the state.

Brad Sears presented preliminary results of a study by the UCLA-based Williams Project on the fiscal impact of the bill. It showed an estimated savings to the state of \$2.5 million to \$155.4 million a year. Cost-saving elements include a predicted reduction in the number of individuals eligible for means-tested government benefits, mutual responsibility for debts by domestic partners and an estimated increase in income tax revenues.

"This independent study is consistent with what we have witnessed in Vermont: Discrimination is more expensive than equality," said Geoffrey Kors, California Alliance for Pride and Equality executive director. "Considering California's current fiscal situation, every member of the legislature should be jumping on board as a co-author of this bill as soon as possible."

The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund announced April 28 its co-endorsement of Tom Ammiano and Susan Leal for mayor of the city and county of San Francisco. The election will be held Nov. 4.

Leal is treasurer of San Francisco, an office she first was elected to in 1998. Ammiano is District 9's representative on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, a post he first won in 1994. This is the Victory Fund's second co-endorsement in its 12-year history.

Ammiano and Leal are not the only candidates seeking to lead the nation's 13th largest metropolis, but a victory for either of them would make San Francisco the largest U.S. city with a gay mayor. According to the 2000 census, San Francisco is home to 776,733 people. Providence, R.I., with 173,618 residents, reigns as the most populous city in the United States with a gay mayor, David Cicilline.

"Leal and Ammiano are outstanding public servants with considerable experience and previous citywide victories to their credit," said Chuck Wolfe, Victory Fund executive director. "With the two of them running, we face an abundance of riches in this race. It's a testament to the progress that San Franciscans have made toward inclusion and equal treatment of all those who call the city home."

Wolfe also noted that Ammiano and Leal are running strong campaigns: "Both candidates can show a path to victory. To date, Leal's strength has been her fund raising, and Ammiano's strength has been his name I.D. and organization. Both are shining examples of the roles that gay and lesbian Americans play in their communities."

San Francisco's 2003 mayoral race is historically significant as well. While the Board of



Supervisors has had an openly gay member since 1977, when Harvey Milk won election to it, the city never has had a gay mayor, despite several close efforts: In 1995 former Clinton administration official Roberta Achtenberg tried for the city's top job, and in 1999 Ammiano made his first bid, losing to Willie Brown in a runoff. Milk, who was assassinated 25 years ago, is regarded as one of the most significant figures in the movement to encourage gay men and lesbians to participate in politics and government.

**VIRGINIA**

Paul Smedberg succeeded May 6 in a field of 13 candidates vying for six at-large seats on the Alexandria City Council.

His win makes him the city's first openly gay officeholder and the second in Virginia. It also brings to 246 the number of gay, lesbian and bi elective officeholders in the nation.

"Move over Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, times are changing in Virginia!" said Chuck Wolfe, Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund executive director.

"Paul Smedberg's victory is a tremendous step forward in a state with myriad anti-gay laws on the books, including a sodomy law. As Paul works on behalf of his constituents, he will help tear down barriers and stereotypes and advance equality for all Virginians."

**NATIONAL**

Republicans were denounced April 28 for demonizing Democratic presidential candidates who hold pro-equality positions on issues such as same-sex civil unions and hate crime protections. Despite a recent promise not to use such tactics, the Republican National Committee has chosen to initiate the 2004 campaign season with anti-gay attacks.

"Just as Republicans defended [Pennsylvania U.S. Sen. Rick] Santorum's sick comments by labeling him as 'inclusive,' they continue to babble out of both sides of their mouth," said Dave Noble, National Stonewall Democrats executive director. "The GOP is further alienating the majority of fair-minded Americans by attacking gay families."

During the past few months, the RNC Web site has posted "opposition research" papers on Democratic presidential candidates. The publications highlight positions held by Democrats that contradict those held by the RNC and specifically lash out at Democrats for supporting gay rights.

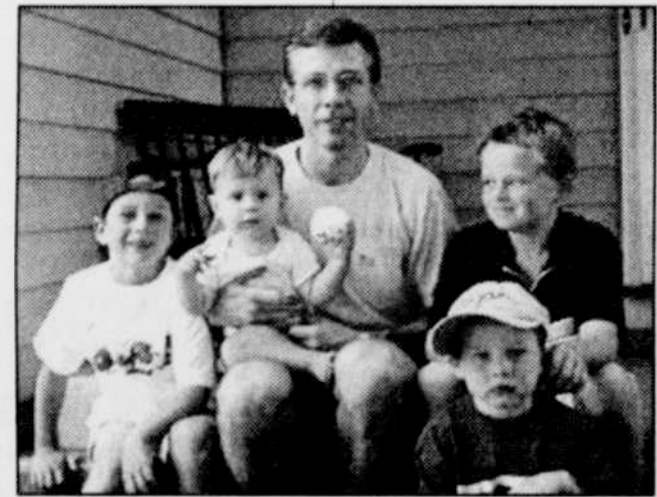
Additionally, the National Republican Congressional Committee last month chose to

employ similar gay-baiting tactics by issuing press releases that linked House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi of California to eight vulnerable Democratic incumbents. In its attack on U.S. Rep. Dennis Moore of Kansas, the committee states that Pelosi supports "needle exchange programs, gay marriage...and Dennis Moore." The release then goes on to ask, "Whose values does Dennis Moore represent, San Francisco's or Kansas'?"

According to *The Washington Blade*, RNC Chairman Marc Racicot recently met with the Human Rights Campaign and pledged to members that he "would not tolerate 'gay-baiting' ads in Republican election campaigns under his control." He already has broken his promise by utilizing attacks specifically designed to motivate the anti-gay core of the Republican Party, according to Noble.

Michael Savage, whose television show premiered on MSNBC in March accompanied by controversy and protest, sensationalized and grossly misrepresented queer issues on his May 3 episode, according to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

During the program he stated: "Here's what worries me: If a fellow goes in for a job that requires certain skills, and he happens to be dressed as a woman, and he says to the person, 'I want this job and I'm a transsexual.' And then the employer says, 'Can you do this job?' And he says, 'That's irrelevant. What's relevant is my sexuality. I'm going to sue you.'"



Paul Smedberg is the first openly gay officeholder in Alexandria, Va.

The only guest was Peter Sprigg of the Family Research Council, whose commentary merely complemented Savage's point of view and created a completely unbalanced discussion, GLAAD said. The show marked the first time he discussed gay, lesbian, bi or trans issues.

After a hiatus because of war coverage, Savage's show

returned several weeks ago, seemingly under the same stringent content and caller screening as before. While anti-gay sentiment from Savage or Sprigg is not a surprise, GLAAD said the discussion was one-sided and blatantly incorrect in its analysis of California Assembly Bill 196, which grants employment protections to trans people and sets penalties for those who deny employment based solely on the person's gender identity.

According to the California Fair Employment & Housing Act, which the legislation would amend, employees or tenants who allege gender discrimination would have to meet the same high standard for allegations of bias based on race, religion, sex and other categories. Sprigg, a longtime anti-gay activist, in fact corrected Savage by informing him of the bill's allowance for employers to set acceptable dress code standards for trans employees.

In addition, the program repeatedly contained footage of drag queens at Pride celebrations that served only to sensationalize the issue. On the April 30 episode of MSNBC's *Hardball with Chris Matthews*, similar footage was shown during a debate between Sprigg and Mark Leno, the California state assemblyman who introduced AB 196. After the segment aired, GLAAD spoke with producers to register its concerns and was assured that the images were inappropriate and would not be used in other prime-time shows.