

NOTEBOOK

(EDUCATION)

TOP LGBT COLLEGES

The Campus Pride Index has come out with a ranking of the top 25 gay-friendly universities in the United States. Based on factors such as LGBT policy inclusion, support and institutional commitment, academic life, student life, housing, campus safety, counseling and health, and recruitment and retention efforts, the list includes two Oregon schools. The University of Oregon can be found at the #11 spot and Portland State is at #18. The University of Washington, as well as several California universities, also made the cut. campusclimateindex.org

Pocatello, Idaho is on track to become the state's second city to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation. The city council there is drafting an ordinance to protect gays and lesbians in matters of housing and employment. Unlike neighboring Washington and Oregon, Idaho does not list sexual orientation or gender identity as a protected class, like race and religion.

(MARRIAGE)

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Because DOMA Section 3 prevents their marriages from being recognized by the federal government, legally married same-sex couples cannot access federal programs that help other couples and families. In the context of Social Security, DOMA prevents a spouse in a same-sex marriage from claiming the Social Security benefit that would otherwise be available to a spouse, including the spousal benefit, spousal disability benefit, lump-sum death benefit, and survivor benefit. GLAD's new publication, *Social Security Benefits and the Defense of Marriage Act: Can I Do Anything Now to Preserve My Rights? Yes!*, details the various benefits that same-sex couples are denied under DOMA, how to file for those benefits now, how to appeal the denial of benefits based on DOMA, and how to keep your appeal alive to preserve your rights while the legal challenges are pending. glad.org

Reynosa: L to R Brisa Gonzalez, Ana Briseno, Fabiola Reyna



Portland Mayor Sam Adams and a handful of other Portlanders are featured in *The Gay Men Project*, a project by New York based photographer Kevin Truong. Truong's goal is to create a visual catalog of gay men living in New York City and beyond, celebrating the wide range of diversity within his community while searching for the commonalities that make each of these gay men beautiful. thegaymenproject.com

(WEB)

LESBIANS IN PDX

BASED ON A NOW DEFUNCT SAN FRANCISCO PROJECT 3, PORTLAND BASED LADIES, ASHLEY, RYAN AND ALYX, STARTED A TUMBLR BLOG DEDICATED TO SHOWCASING THE MANY FACES OF THE PORTLAND LESBIAN SCENE CALLED *LESBIANS IN PDX*, LESBIANSINPDX.TUMBLR.COM. *JUST OUT* EDITOR ALLEY HECTOR WAS RECENTLY FEATURED WITH THE REQUISITE THREE "FUN FACTS." EMAIL LESBIANSINPDX@GMAIL.COM IF INTERESTED IN BEING ON THE BLOG.

(MUSIC)

REYNOSA 7"

Reynosa are a welcome change in a Portland music scene so focused on indie rock. With a queer punk take on Cumbia and a combination of other Latin styles the trio, made up of Ana Margarita Briseno on percussion, Fabiola Reyna on guitar, and Brisa Gonzalez on vocals, formed in 2011 and has just released their first 7" record. Side A covers a 1960s Peruvian cumbia/chicha song "Carinito," from a group called, Los Hijos Del Sol. The Spanish title means something akin to "a special, personalized bit of affection." Reynosa's rendition certainly retains that sentiment as well as the bright cultural character of the original, while adding a soulful blending of female vocals. You'll find more wordplay in their original B-side "Caballera," which roughly translates to "cowgirls" but really means so much more. This "queer cumbia" song brings an even more Northwest flavor with some rocking guitar licks and punctuated drums. A full album should be ready by Spring 2013.